

Smash! hits

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All the
**JUICIEST
GOSSIP**
from the Smash
Hits Tour &
Poll Winners'
Party



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Shooting Stars!

STEPS fire it up for **2001**



BSB WESTLIFE

FIVE a1 RONAN BILLIE SAMANTHA

and all the year's hottest new stars

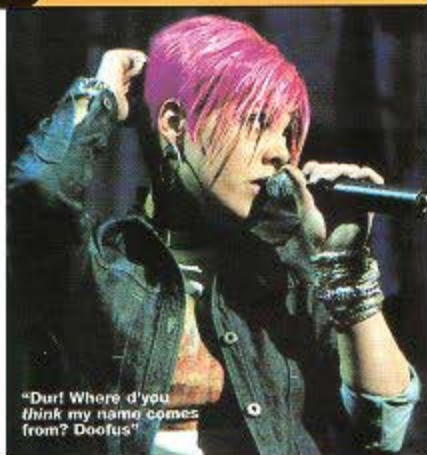


the popparazzi

there's no escaping the *Smash Hits* snappers!



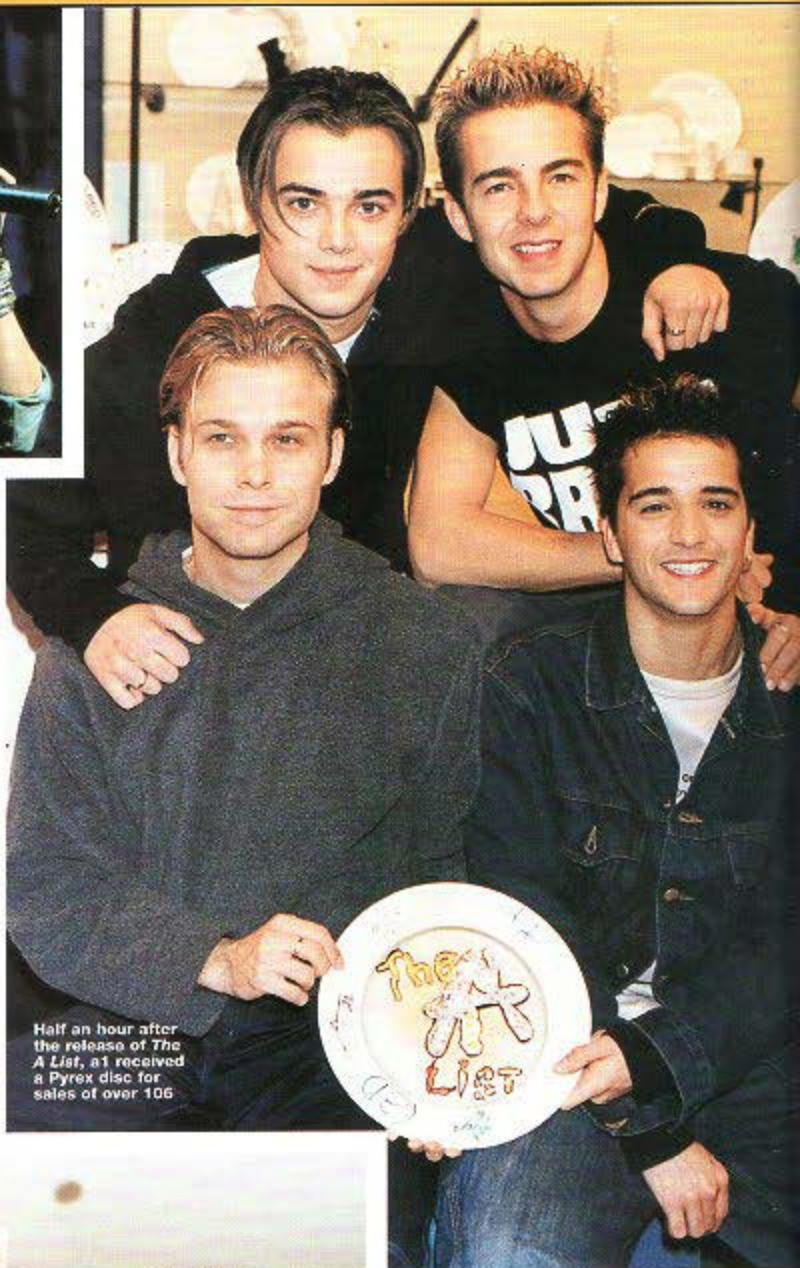
Abs amuses himself with a game of 'pocket billiards'



"Durl Where d'you think my name comes from? Doofus"



Squelch! "Oh, poo!" Exactly, Kylie, exactly



Half an hour after the release of *The A List*, a1 received a Pyrex disc for sales of over 106



Sid destroyed Jade at 'Scissors, Paper, Stone' with the rare but unbeatable finger pistol



"Hey, who left this bag of skanky old clothes here? This is an airport not a charity shop." Kevin: "Excuse me, man, that's, like, AJ's luggage"



Mel's new bloke, Dan Tomcat, looks hard but he's pretty armless



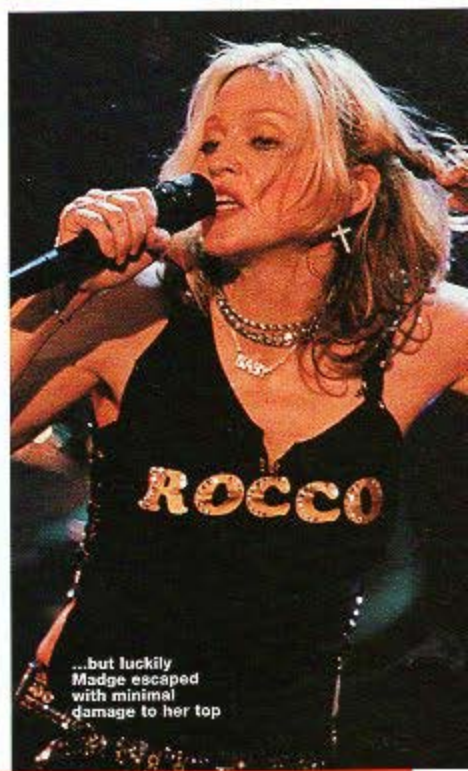
Britney kept smiling - despite the earlier run-in with Edward Selssorhands



We recommend Steps' ketchup - but steer clear of the H Pee sauce



Madonna fan Jon Bon Jovi made a desperate lunge for his heroine...



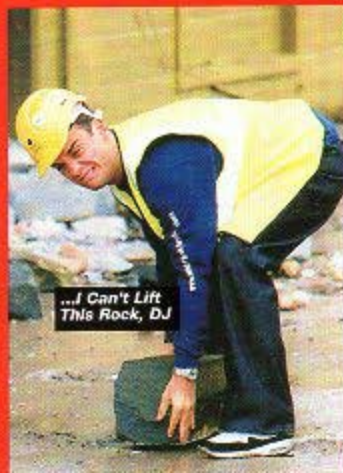
...but luckily Madge escaped with minimal damage to her top



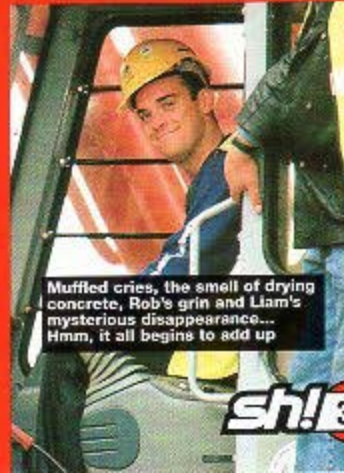
Natalie All Saint's Gucci subscription ran out so they scrambled her blouse



Magical I'm gonna star in my own episode of Bob The Builder! It's gonna be called...

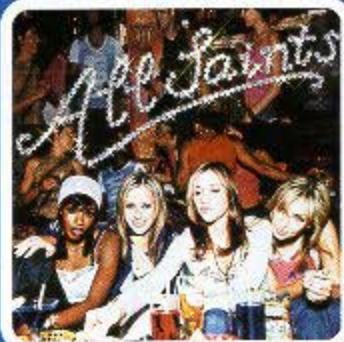


...I Can't Lift This Rock, DJ



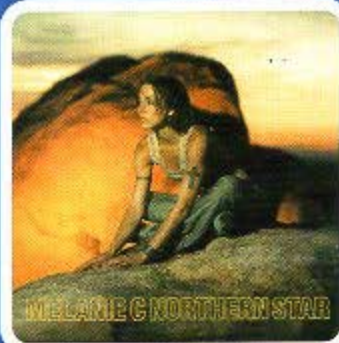
Muffled cries, the smell of drying concrete, Rob's grin and Liam's mysterious disappearance... Hmm, it all begins to add up

sh!3



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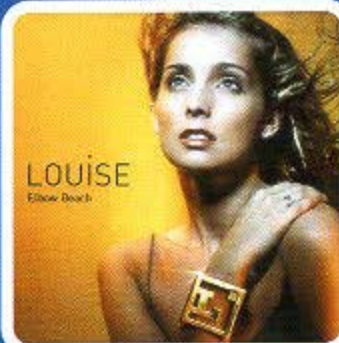
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BEST OF 2000



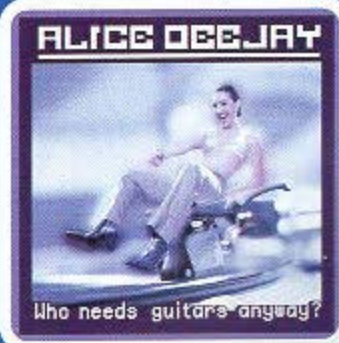
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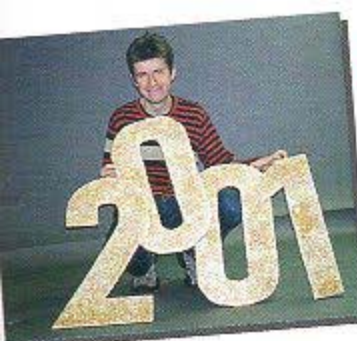
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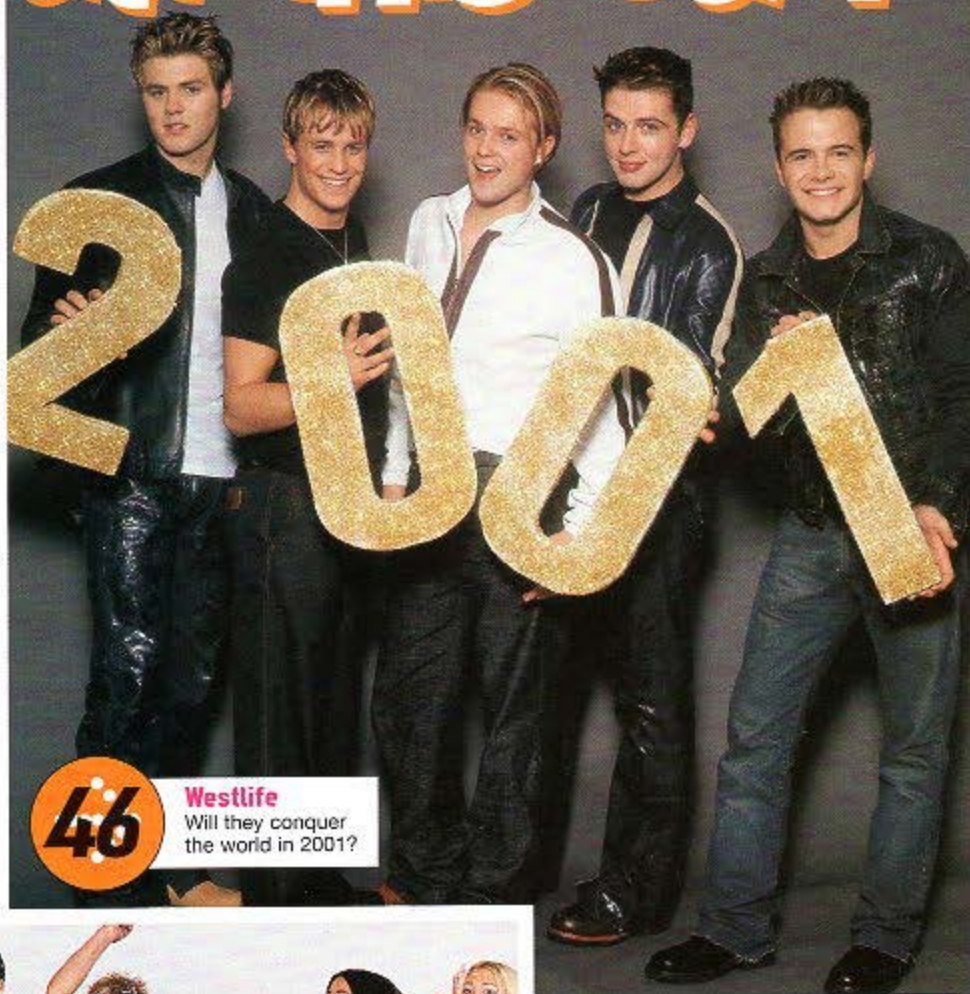


Hello!

Happy New Year! Even though 2001 is now ten days old, we've got enough fun in this issue to last you until 2002. All the big stars and the new bands tell

you what they're up to this year, and there's more backstage stuff than ever before. Backstage at the *Smash Hits* Tour, backstage at the Poll Winners' Party and, just for fun, backstage at Record Of The Year, too. When we say we take you behind the scenes, we mean it! Plus, corkin' posters, a funky photo album and a review of all the hits and haircuts of the last year. See you in two weeks,

John X



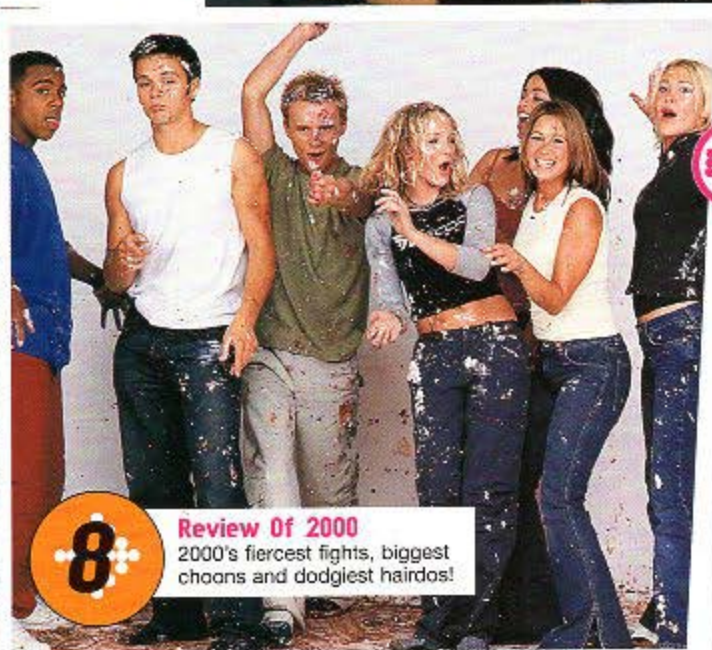
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Westlife
Will they conquer the world in 2001?



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Poll Winners' Party
All the goss and goings-on at the biggest bash of the year!



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2000's fiercest fights, biggest choons and dodgiest hairdos!



essentials

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Who will win Record Of The Year? And what the jiggins is Nick Backstreet doing to Aaron?

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Daphne and Celeste in nice shocker! Steps and his doll in looking nothing like each other scandal!

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Tigers, tattoos and turkey are in there - but what will top the only chart that counts?

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26 Smash Hits Tour Gossip

Scandal and sauce aboard the rock'n'roll tour bus to oblivion, kids. Er, almost!

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important, who are they snogging?

49 Ronan & S Club 7

Pop's finest reveal their New Year's resolutions.

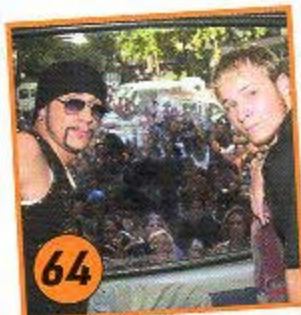
big thing in the ker-azy world of pop?

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Has your favourite pop star ever managed to stick to a New Year's resolution? Find out here...

64 Backstreet Boys

All aboard the BSB jet - we're off to Australia!

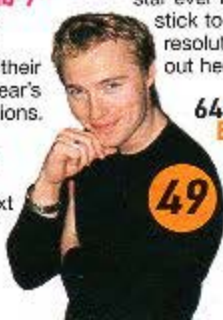


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50 New Acts For 2001

Who'll be the next

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Ultra protection. Always.



Smooth sailing.

Designed not to bunch



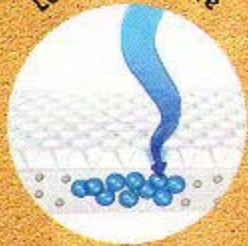
Pads that bunch are not only uncomfortable, they don't work as well as they should.

Stays in shape



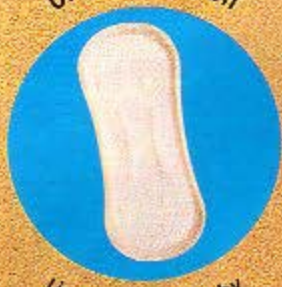
New Always pads now stay flatter than before...

Lock-away core

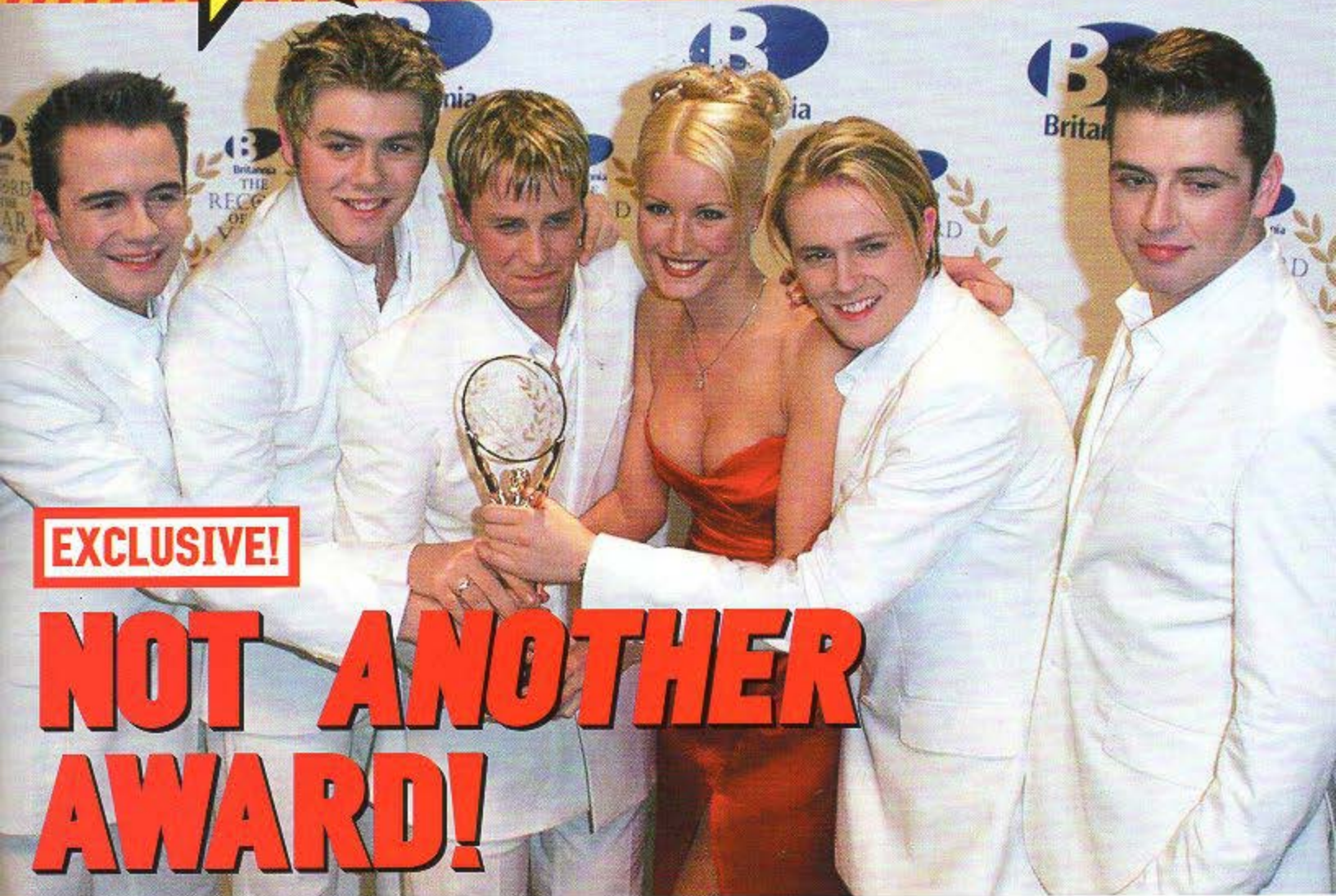


...which means the ultra absorbent core can work at its best.

Ultra protection



Liquid is absorbed by almost the whole surface of the pad, giving you ultra protection.



EXCLUSIVE!

NOT ANOTHER AWARD!

We hang out with Westlife as they scoop Record Of The Year. Again.



The guys' fingernails were bitten to non-existence as they beat off **Robbie** (second), **S Club 7** and **Ronan** in the closest contest yet. Only one mag spent the whole night with 'em and here's what happened...

7.50pm *Record Of The Year* starts. **Samantha Mumba** flies in from Detroit to open the show, singing *Gotta Tell You*. **S Club 7**, **Westlife** (in grey suits), **Spiller**, **Gabrielle**, **Ronan**, **Craig David** and **Robbie** (both via video), **All Saints** and **Sonique** (who's brought some v. strange dancers) perform. **Richard** and **Judy** are in the crowd. Viewers have an hour to vote for the winner.

9.05pm We say, "Hi" to Samantha Mumba (currently No1 in the US sales chart), who tells us she's just bought her mum a diamond ring for Crimbo.

9.30pm We go to Westlife's dressing room, where Mark is chilling by the couch and Bryan and Nicky are

playing *FIFA 2001* on the PlayStation. **Kian** takes over from **Bry**, and they've chosen to play Manchester United v. er, Manchester United. "They're the best team," Ki explains. *Smash Hits* breaks our camera and Kian tries to help us fix it. Tour manager Anto (the 'Life's sixth member) says, "Boys, don't leave it 'til the last minute as you always do. Get changed!" But **Shane's** gone missing.

9.45pm Shane goes to chat with Ronan, who's also biting his nails. Ro's hanging with a heavily-pregnant Yvonne and they chat about who'll win. Both former winners - Ronan won with **Boyzone** in '98 - Shane says, "I don't think we'll win again!"

10pm Last year's winners perform, so Westlife (now in white suits) sing Christmas single *My Girl*. Voting is announced. Westlife shiver in a corner, and **Paul** punches the table in delight as **S Club** take an early lead. As Westlife edge to victory, they hug

Ronan and run on to perform. Shane and Bryan pull lots of faces off camera, as they run through *My Love*.

10.30pm **Brad**, **Jo** and **Rachel 7** are the first to hug **Mark** and **Nicky** after the result, as all the guys go on to the aftershow party. **Kerry** turns up to say well done to Bryan. Shane tells *SH* he's v. nervous about the Most Fanciable Male result the next day. "It's the one award I really want," he says.

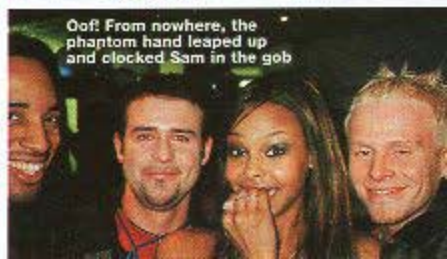
2am The boys (minus Bryan, who's gone to bed) go on to a private room at the ultraswank Red Cube nightclub. Nicky now has a Santa hat on and paparazzi "hose down" the guys as they enter the club. Shane and Kian chat to *My Love* songwriter Per, and Nicky meets **Darren Big Brother**. "We stopped rehearsing to watch the last show," laughs Nicky. They both chuckle about the fact Darren sang *Flying Without Wings* in the house.

4am Everyone goes to bed. At last.

Another late night and the Westlife boys began to look a bit peaky (That's *Sonique's* dancers you clot - Ed)

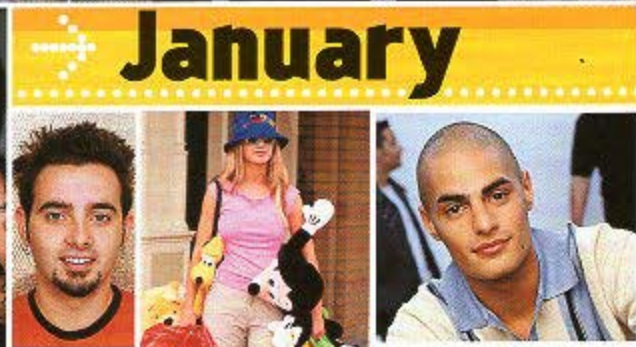


"Wow! The graphics are so good!" Er, Bryan, the PlayStation's switched off, that's actually *Match Of The Day*



Oof! From nowhere, the phantom hand leaped up and clocked Sam in the gob

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2000



January

● **H Steps** is on holiday in South Africa.

● **AJ Backstreet** celebrates his 22nd birthday by playing a solo gig as his rockin' alter ego Johnny No Name.

● The hair world mourns as Pineapple 'N Sync loses his spiky 'do and becomes plain **Chris**. His hair 'heads' off for a solo career, but they remain on good terms despite rumours of musical differences.

● **Point Break** cause a riot at an HMV signing after fisticuffs break out between two fans.

● Rumours that **911** are about to split are denied. They later turn out to be true.

● **Bobak** says goodbye to **Another Level**, leaving just **Mark** and **Dane**.



WESTLIFE WATCH

Westlife start the year with a trip to America, doing shows for music bosses in New York and Los Angeles. The boys blow 'em away with an a capella version of *Flying Without Wings*, but **Mark** is concerned he's missing out on *Smash Hits* so he

gets his mum to save it for him.

THE BIG CHOONS

S Club 7
Two In A Million
Manic Street Preachers *The Masses Against The Classes*
Britney Spears *Born To Make You Happy*
DJ Luck & MC Neat *A Little Bit of Luck*
Donnell Jones feat. Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes *You Know What's Up*

THE QUOTES

● "If I'm at an airport and I don't feel like smiling, I just put my hat on and hide" – Britney Spears

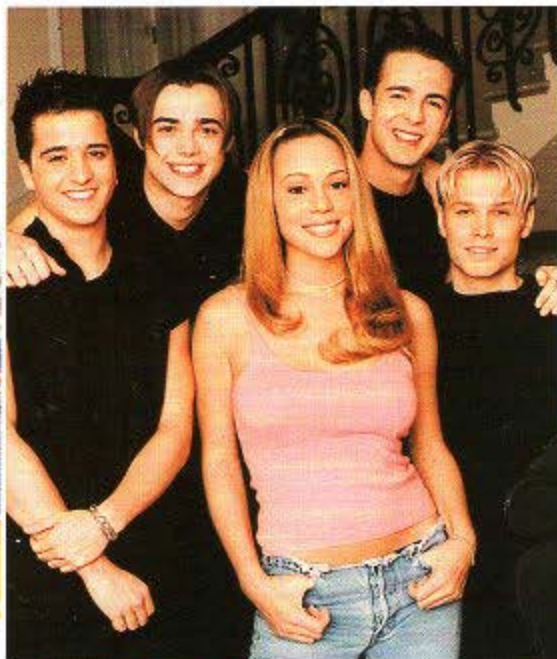
● "Eventually long hair gets annoying and you have to chop it off" – Isaac Hanson

● "I'm just looking for a

serious relationship. I'd love a girl I could ring anytime" – Shane Westlife

● "We want loads of expensive stuff, robots and light explosions!" – Abs Five on their tour plans

● "H is like my little brother and Lee's like my big brother" – Claire Steps



February

● **All Saints** are back with *Pure Shores* from *The Beach*. And they film their video in glamorous, er, Norfolk.

● **a1** meet **Mariah Carey**. **Mark** is the most nervous as it's been his dream to meet the skimp-loving warbler since he was 12.

● **Aqua** make a colourful return to Planet Pop. "We're back to save you from all the boybands," squeaks **Lene**.

● **Yorick Venga** admits to a previous career as a dolphin-trainer and says he still misses his mammal mates.

● **B-Rok™** and **Kevin BSB** start off the year by getting engaged. Not to each other.

● Are rumours that **Britney** and **Christina** are fighting over **Prince William** true? Er, probably not.

THE QUOTES

● "H used to get sick on their tour bus almost every day when we were touring together" – Britney

● "I once wanted to become a secretary because I thought that they were cute – I'm actually still learning to type!" – Christina Aguilera

● "I was a Madonna fan, but then she made some disparaging comments about me that were totally unprovoked" – Mariah Carey

● "My family and I sat around the radio, listening to the Top 40, and my mum cracked open the champagne" – Gabrielle on getting to No1 with *Rise*

who wants to record a duet with them. Wonder if that will happen...

Gabrielle Rise
Oasis Go Let It Out
Jamella Money
'N Sync Bye Bye Bye
Backstreet Boys Show Me The Meaning Of Being Lonely
Andreas Johnson Glorious

THE BIG CHOONS

Daphne & Celeste Ooh Stick You
All Saints Pure Shores

WESTLIFE WATCH

Westlife are busy in America, and they seem to have caught the eye of Mariah Carey





March



● Planet Pop has one of the toppermost nights out of the year at the Brit Awards. **Five** win Best Pop Act and steal the show performing with **Queen**. **Geri** does a spot of saucy pole-dancing with her dog **Harry** in a shopping trolley. **Spice Girls** get Outstanding Achievement Award and crazy **Macy Gray** establishes herself as a total loon.

● A rumoured ruck breaks out between **J Five** and **Lee Steps**, and **Ritchie** tries to calm proceedings with a **Jerry Springer**-like, "Live and let live."

● **Britney** makes a guest appearance in an episode of *The Simpsons*. Meanwhile, **J** is spotted snogging **Mel C** at a Brits aftershow party and starts steppin' out with her. "We're not getting married," he insists.

● **Hanson** unveil their new hair and tell us they're "a bit more rock'n'roll."



● **Britney-loving Justin 'N Sync** is spotted in the back of a taxi with **Nicole All Saint**.

● **Destiny's Child** start their first member-swapping frenzy as **LeToya** and **LaTavia** leave the band. They're quickly replaced by new girls **Farrah** and **Michelle**.

● **Lolly** goes Latino with *Per Sempre Amore*. Arriva!

● **Faye Steps**, **Atomic Kitten** and **a1** are among the stars to turn out for the swanky *The Beach* premiere.

● **Blink 182** strip off and pay 'tribute' to **BSB** in their *All The Small Things* video.

THE QUOTES

"I wouldn't go naked, but if someone asked me to wear a little bikini top and hotpants I think I'd do it" – Keavy B★Witched

"If we don't get chucked out of somewhere at least once a day, there's definitely something wrong" – Tash Kitten



WESTLIFE WATCH

W Bryan Westlife takes *Smash Hits* out on a fantasy date – and offers to take us to meet his nan.

THE BIG CHOOONS

Kells Caught Out There
Blink 182 All The Small Things
Geri Bag It Up
Madonna American Pie
Craig David Fill Me In
Artful Dodger feat. Romina Johnson
Movin' Too Fast

"I envy Westlife! I wish I was just like them! In fact I want to be Shane, or whatever his name is" – Sean Five

"I'm a bloke, so of course I wear underwear for more than one day in a row" – Paul a1

"I think all those boybands could kick our butts because there are five of them and only three of us!" – Mark Blink 182



April



● **Steps** dress in rubber for *Deeper Shade Of Blue*.

● One of the biggest phenomena of 2000 springs up in the shape of **Craig David's** hat. It appears in his *Fill Me In* video, even though he's indoors and clearly won't feel the benefit when he goes out in the cold. "It's part of me!" he says. "I am wearing it indoors in my video – but I don't wear it all the time though. It keeps the warmth in – you lose a lot of heat through your head. And mine gets cold in the winter"

● **Stephen Gately** returns to Planet Pop – huzzah!

● **Five's** tour is a huge success and **Scott** even smiles! He's probably just got wind.

● The word "Thong-thong-thong-thong" is invented.



THE QUOTES

"A round, firm one and if you've got stretch marks, make-up is our friend!" – Sisqó on his preferred thong-filling.

"I like the thought that something I'm

eating used to wag!" – Brett Point Break

"I take my boys to the park, play round the house, throw a ball or just play with the dogs" – Puffy on being a Daddy

"I'm pretty good at arm-wrestling" – Mandy Moore

Meanwhile, they get a fifth number one with *Fool Again*.

THE BIG CHOOONS

Mel C Never Be The Same Again
Fragma Toca's Miracle

Richard Ashcroft
A Song For The Lovers
Sisqó Thong Song

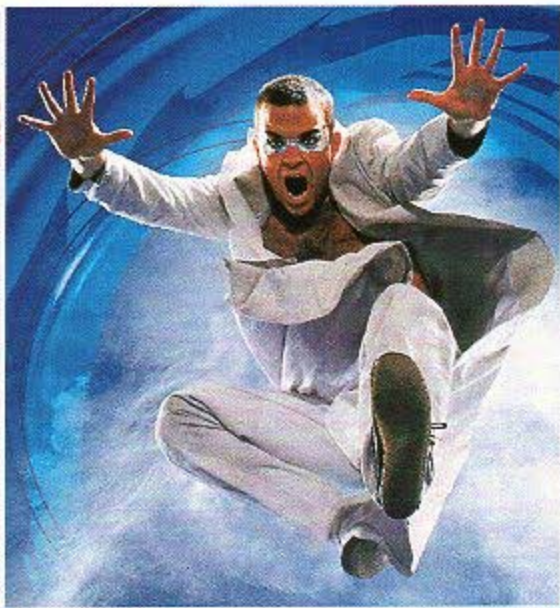
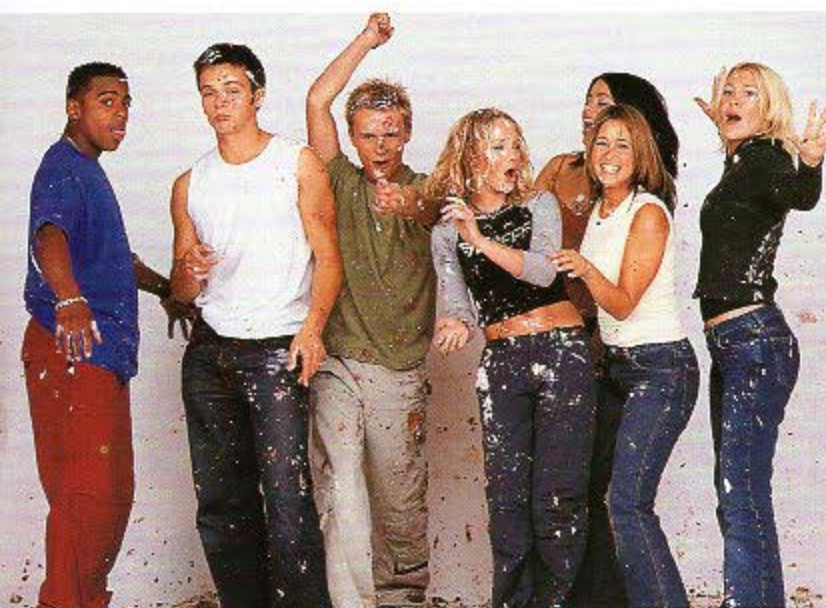
Jessica Simpson
I Wanna Love You Forever
Sweet Female Attitude Flowers

WESTLIFE WATCH

W Westlife play down their pop fight with **Five**, but then rumours (later denied) fly that they've called **Mel C** "ugly".



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2000



May

● **Puff Daddy** pays a flying visit to the UK.

● **S Club 7** get caught up in a massive food fight on the *SH* cover.

● **Mandy Moore** is the latest blonde American popster bidding for **Britney**-sized stardom.

● **Ritchie** and **Billie** split – and so does Billie's bra when she accidentally flashes her knockers during a particularly energetic performance.

Geri, Stephen Gately and **All Saints** head to the swanky Capital FM London Awards.

WESTLIFE WATCH

W **Mark** has a skinhead! He shuns swanky hairdressers and has his head shaved by a Spanish barber for £2.50.

THE BIG CHOONS

Tom Jones & Mousse T Sex Bomb

Madison Avenue *Don't Call Me Baby*

Billie Piper *Day And Night*

Britney *Oops I Did It Again*

THE QUOTES

● "J hates people saying nasty things about me. If he heard someone being nasty he'd probably hit 'em!" – **Mel C**

● "I've got me own jukebox now, it's fantastic" – **H Steps**



June

● **Ricky Martin** shakes his bon-bon when he comes to Blighty.

● **Ronan** opens a new HMV store in London (in snakeskin trousers) and causes a riot.

● **Robbie** gets splattered in paint as Pepsi poster boy.



● **Ritchie Five** cheats death in a car accident.

● **Yowzers! Ronan** unleashes those trousers. (*The flowery ones – Fashion Ed*)

WESTLIFE WATCH

W **Westlife** play huge outdoor shows all over America and they get to hang out with **Destiny's Child**, **Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes** and **Mandy Moore**.

● **Steps** head off to Rome to film the vid for *When I Said Goodbye*.

● **Oxide & Neutrino** come from nowhere and shout, "Would everyone stop getting shot?" on *Bound 4 Da Reload*. They film a vid in their lounge and go to No1.

● **Sonique's It Feels So Good** is the only song to spend three weeks at number one this year!

● **J & Mel C** are spotted together in public.

● **Fran Travis** gets stuck in a giant egg in their *Coming Around* video. The boys then bring the sun out at Glastonbury.



THE BIG CHOONS

Black Legend *You See The Trouble With Me*

Richard Blackwood *Mama – Who Da Man?*

Mary Mary Shackles

S Club 7 *Reach*

Pink *There You Go*

Stephen Gately

New Beginning

Damage *Ghetto Romance*

Darude *Sandstorm*

THE QUOTES

● "Justin 'N Sync came up to me in a hotel, with **Britney Spears**, and he was nice, I just didn't know who he was!" – **Jon Bon Jovi**

● "We do pole vault, 100m, triple jump and long jump. 10,000m is a killer!" – **Fran**

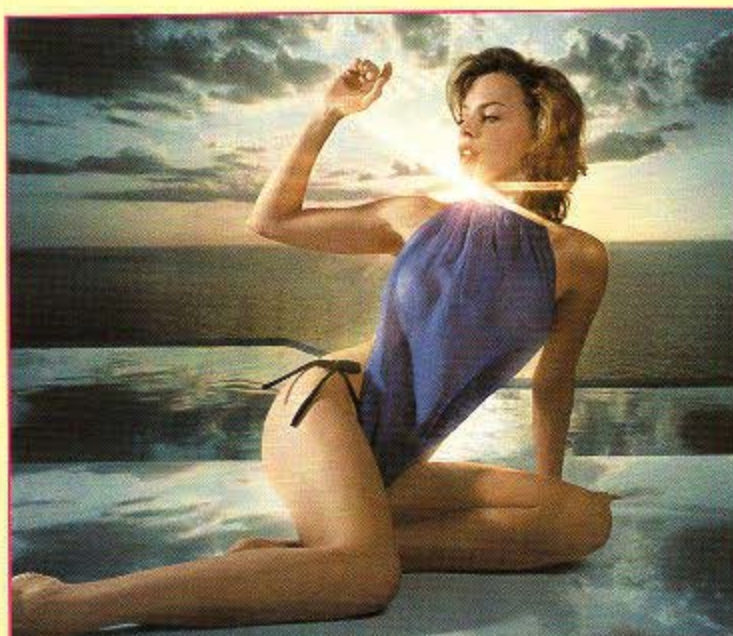
on Travis tour bus antics

● "I'd like to shoot 'N Sync" – **J Five**

● "We think toilet humour's funny! That goes down well all round the world – except Germany" – **Mark Blink 182**

● "Ya nanas might be your orbs, or your dumps, or your gloots" – **Paul 7**





kylie-live

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westlife

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THU. 17 BIRMINGHAM NEC 0121 780 4133

SAT. 19 NEWCASTLE TELEWEST ARENA 0191 401 8000

EXTRA SHOW JUST ADDED SUNDAY 20

TUE. 22 GLASGOW SECC 0870 040 4000

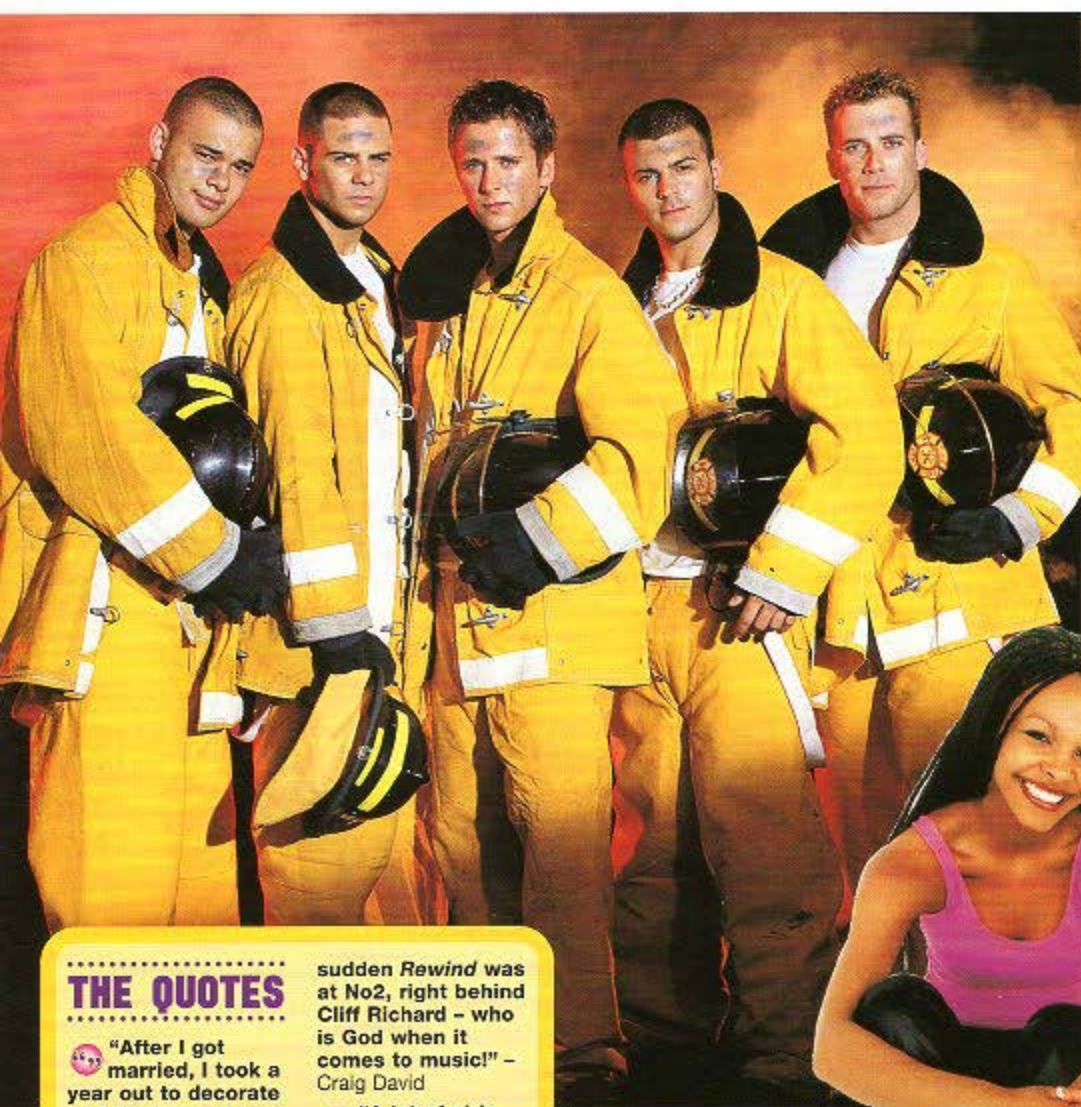
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REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2000



THE QUOTES

"After I got married, I took a year out to decorate and furniture shop. Then I spent nine months writing my album" - Louise

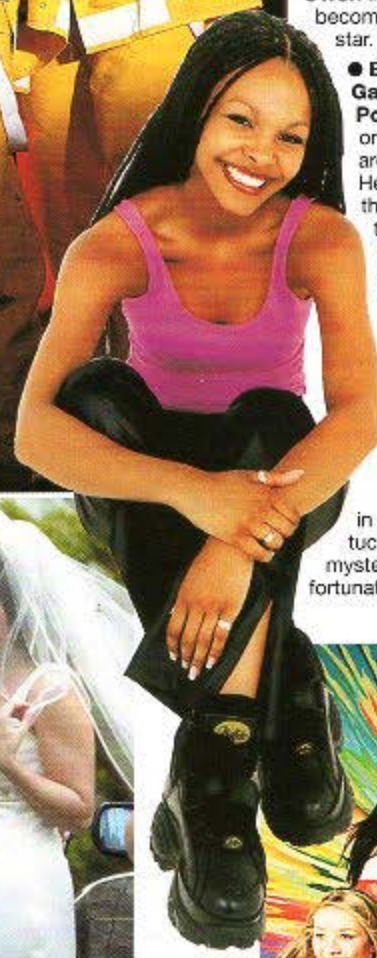
"There's been a bit of a hotpant hoo-ha. I had no idea how much fuss they would cause!" - Kylie

"I never expected chart success and all of a

sudden *Rewind* was at No2, right behind Cliff Richard - who is God when it comes to music!" - Craig David

"A lot of girls like my hairy chest! I've got nothing against people shaving their chests - or any other part of their bodies - but I'm just too lazy" - Christian a1

"I'm very good at DIY so I can put up shelves on my own!" - Mel C



July



It's the wettest day in pop at Party In The Park, but the show goes on. **BSB** (minus **AJ**) duet with **Elton John**. It starts to rain, **Sisqó** nearly slips over, it rains some more, **Vic 'n' Dane** perform *Out Of Your Mind*, it rains a bit more, **Bon Jovi** rawk the show, despite Jon's fear of getting his hair wet.

Hot stuff! **Five** dress up as firemen for the cover of *SH*.

Sid "Rickaaaaaay!" Owen tries to become a pop star. Uh-oh...

Bloodhound Gang's Jimmy Pop takes *SH* on a bus ride around London. He thrills at the sights and tells us all his favourite vomit stories. Hurrah!

WESTLIFE WATCH

Shane is spotted in his best bib 'n' tucker with a mystery bride, but fortunately it's his

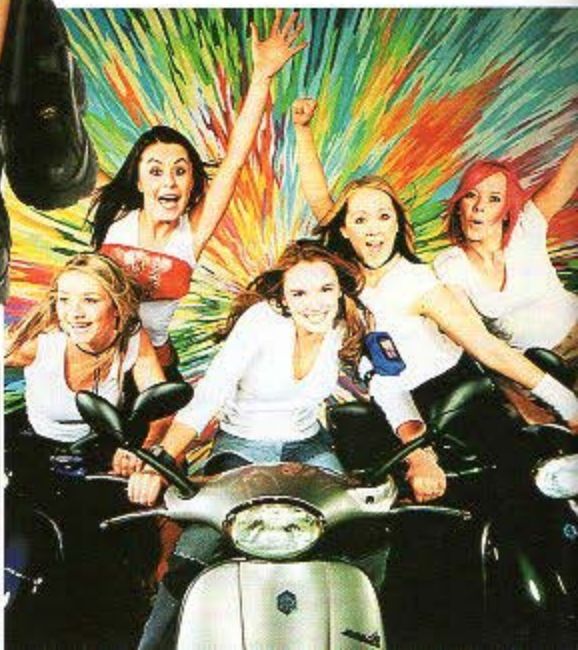
FIGHTSEEING



sister's wedding. Meanwhile, the boys open the Harrods sale, and do the dodgiest duet in the history of pop music with Harrods owner **Mohammed Al Fayed**.

THE BIG CHOONS

The Corrs *Breathless*
Eminem *The Real Slim Shady*
Ronan *Life Is A Rollercoaster*
Kylie Minogue *Spinning Around*
Robbie Williams *Rock DJ*
Samantha Mumba *Gotta Tell You*
Aaliyah *Try Again*
Coldplay *Yellow*
Destiny's Child *Jumpin' Jumpin'*
Girl Thing *Last One Standing*
David Gray *Babylon*
Limp Bizkit *Take A Look Around*





August

● The biggest chart battle of the summer kicks off when **True Steppers**, **Dane** and **Victoria Beckham's Out Of Your Mind** goes head to head with an unknown dance choon, **Spiller** and **Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Groovejet** (If This Ain't Love). "I won't be beaten by a dog food," says **Posh**, who tours the country signing copies of her single before Spiller storms to No.1.

● **Paul a1**, **Daphne & Celeste** and a whole load of fans flock to London's trendy Astoria to see the **Bloodhound Gang**, who round off their gig by being sick on each other. Hurrah!

● Popsters fall on hard times: **Backstreet Boys** get hard up for cash and get Saturday jobs at Burger King, while **Steps** reveal their plans to return to Butlins for a gig.

● **Daphne & Celeste** brave the Reading Festival and get bottles, pasta and shoes thrown at them by naughty indie fans.

● Pop stars vote **'N Sync's Bye Bye Bye** the best video ever in a **SH** poll.

● **S Club 7** go all desert island sultry in their **Natural** vid and **'N Sync** unveil their puppet-tastic **It's Gonna Be Me**.

● **a1** come back with their 'mazin **Take On Me** video.

● **Robbie Williams** causes a stir on his tour of Australia.

WESTLIFE WATCH

W It's **Shane's** 21st birthday and **DJ Bryan** is on the decks – the boys are up partying until 4am. **Nicky** kidnaps **Mark's** teddy bear, blindfolding it. "Mark was a bit freaked-out,



but we had a laugh," said **Nicky**.

THE BIG CHOONS

Janet Jackson Doesn't Really Matter

Lonyo Summer Of Love

Spiller Groovejet (If This Ain't Love)

True Steppers and **Dane Bowers** feat. **Victoria Beckham** Out Of Your Mind

Melanie C I Turn To You

Bombfunk MCs Freestyler

THE QUOTES

● "The only gripe I've got with southerners is that they don't do chips with gravy" – **J Five**

● "Oasis are very moody, aren't they? But I'd beat them in a water fight with my Super Soaker" – **Lolly**

● "I'm always singing the wrong bits and the lads take the mickey out of me" – **Ronan**

● "We stalked Westlife because we liked them for a while, but we're over the infatuation period now" – **Celeste**

● "I think I used to be a butterfly in a former life" – **Craig David**

September

● **'N Sync** get their first ever **SH** cover, but refuse to tour Britain because they reckon they don't have any fans over here!

● **Slipknot** make a right show of themselves in front of **Marilyn Manson** when they have a food fight at the **Kerrang!** Awards.

● Disco diva **Kylie Minogue** comes clean about her love for **S Club 7**.

● **Five** deny ongoing rumours that they're splitting up after cutting short a promotional tour of south-east Asia. It turns out the boys are all exhausted.

● After spending August 'working' Woolworths stores all around the country, **Victoria Beckham's** floored by a bout of meningitis.

● **S Club 7** join **Tess** and **Dane**, opening the first show of **Smash Hits** TV.

WESTLIFE WATCH

W **Kian** gets his top off for the cover of **Smash Hits**. "I'd only do this for **Smash Hits**," he says, despite being inundated with saucy offers afterwards.



THE BIG CHOONS

Madonna Music

Modjo Lady (Hear Me Tonight)

a1 Take On Me

All Saints Black Coffee

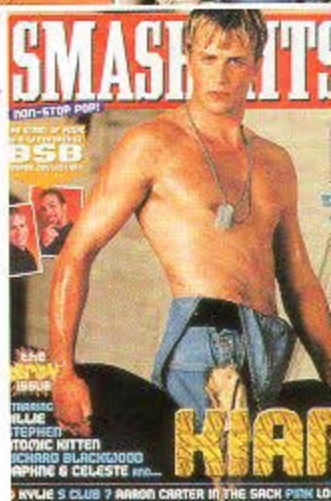
Mariah Carey feat. **Westlife** Against All Odds

Sugababes Overload

U2 Beautiful Day

Wyclef Jean It Doesn't Matter

Zombie Nation Kerncraft 400



THE QUOTES

● "We don't have any fans in the UK! You don't love us!" – **Joey 'N Sync**

● "I don't have a girlfriend at the moment, but I suppose I am looking. A bit" – **Aaron Carter**

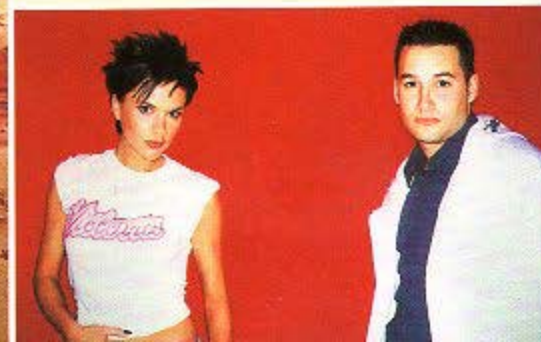
● "I've had boys coming up and asking me for a kiss and a cuddle – nothing major. Not compared to what

girls ask the boys, anyway!" – **Rachel 7**

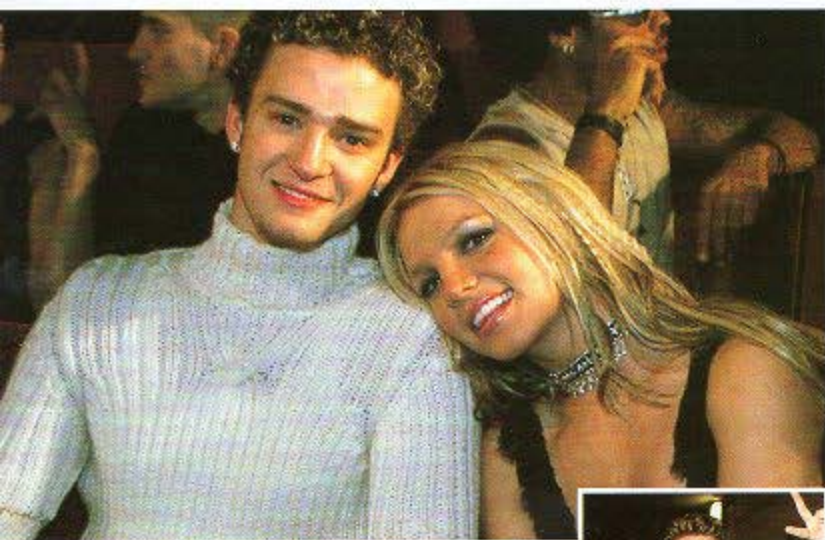
● "I watch **Teletubbies** and **Pingu** with **Phoenix**, I rarely get to watch proper TV" – **Mel B**

● "One girl sent me a photo of herself with everything out there. She was completely naked!" – **Richard Blackwood**

● "A lot of people think I'm a man-hater but I'm really not" – **Pink**



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2000



October

● **Lisa Steps'** hair turns blue for the *Stomp!* video.

● It's on! **Britney** confesses her love for Justin 'N Sync.

● **Aaliyah**, 'N Sync and **Eminem** win big at the MTV Awards.

● **Samantha Mumba** storms into the American charts with *Gotta Tell You*.

● Pop products this month include **S Club 7** dollies and **Chris 'N Sync's** clothing range.

● **Vengaboys** confess their desire to do a concert in the buff!

● **Steps** go punk for the *SH* cover.

● **AJ Backstreet** honours his dog with a new tattoo. For him, not the dog, of course. That would be cruel.

WESTLIFE WATCH

W Bryan Westlife and Kerry Kitten talk to *SH* about their romance. "He's changed my life."

FOREVER



says Kerry. "Our relationship is the most solid thing in my life," says Bryan. The boys tell *SH* what **Mariah Carey** was really like. "We had dinner," says Nicky. "She came into the restaurant with about 90 million security guards



in a long, black dress, looking a million dollars. Then we went on a boat trip the next day."

THE BIG CHOONS

Architechs feat. Nana
Body Groove

Spice Girls *Holler*
Samantha Mumba *Body II Body*
Eminem *The Way I Am*
Steps *Stomp!*
BSB *Shape Of My Heart*
Martine McCutcheon *I'm Over You*
Baha Men *Who Let The Dogs Out?*

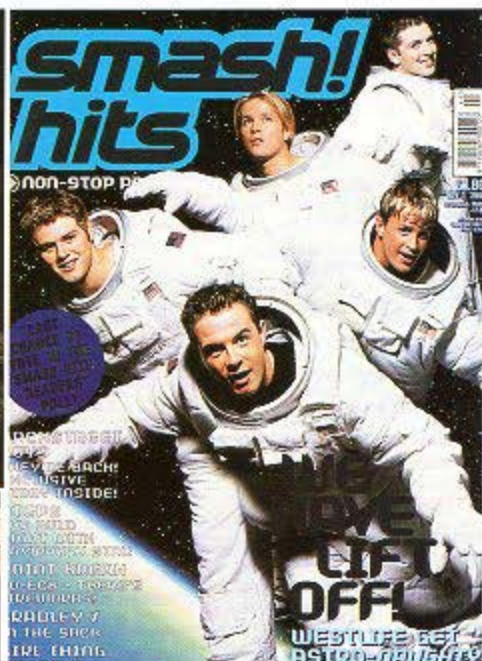
THE QUOTES

● "I'm definitely not leaving the band" – Faye Steps
● "I like golf – I used to play it a lot!" – Nicole All Saint
● "Lee's a good mate of mine, but I don't bother getting involved

when J starts slugging him off" – Ritchie Five

● "I always help old ladies across the road" – Mark Westlife

● "I've just had a phone bill for £681 and most of it was text messages" – Mark a1



November

● **BSB** release their mazin *Black And Blue* album.

● **Britney** comes to Britain with her huge arena shows and 10,000 costume changes.

● **Jo 7** and **Fran Travis** get engaged. Not to each other though.

● **H** sticks his finger in a plug socket – and gets a new spiky hairdo.

● A teenager's plot to kill 'N Sync is foiled.

● **Kerry Kitten** is floored by exhaustion.

● Trouble for **Destiny's Child** as **Beyoncé** loses her voice and **Kelle** breaks two toes.

● **Nicole All Saint** is expecting **Liam Gallagher's** baby.

WESTLIFE WATCH

W **Spice Girls** and **Westlife** release albums on the same day – and Westlife go straight to No1.

The boys blast off into space on the most hi-tech *SH* cover ever!

THE BIG CHOONS

LeAnn Rimes
Can't Fight The Moonlight

a1 *Same Old Brand New You*

Destiny's Child *Independent Women Part One*

THE QUOTES

● "Jon's the romantic one. The girls seem to like him" – Bradley 7

● "My mate works at a fire station, so I often pop in to see her 'cos I love firemen" – Samantha Mumba

● "Nicky doesn't care at all – he'll

S Club 7 *Never Had A Dream Come True*

Ricky Martin *She Bangs*

Westlife *My Love*

Daft Punk *One More Time*

drop his trousers anywhere!" – Kian Westlife

● "I'd like a tattoo somewhere really personal" – Victoria Spice

● "Me and my friends flew to different planets – on a banana!" – Hannah 7's dreams



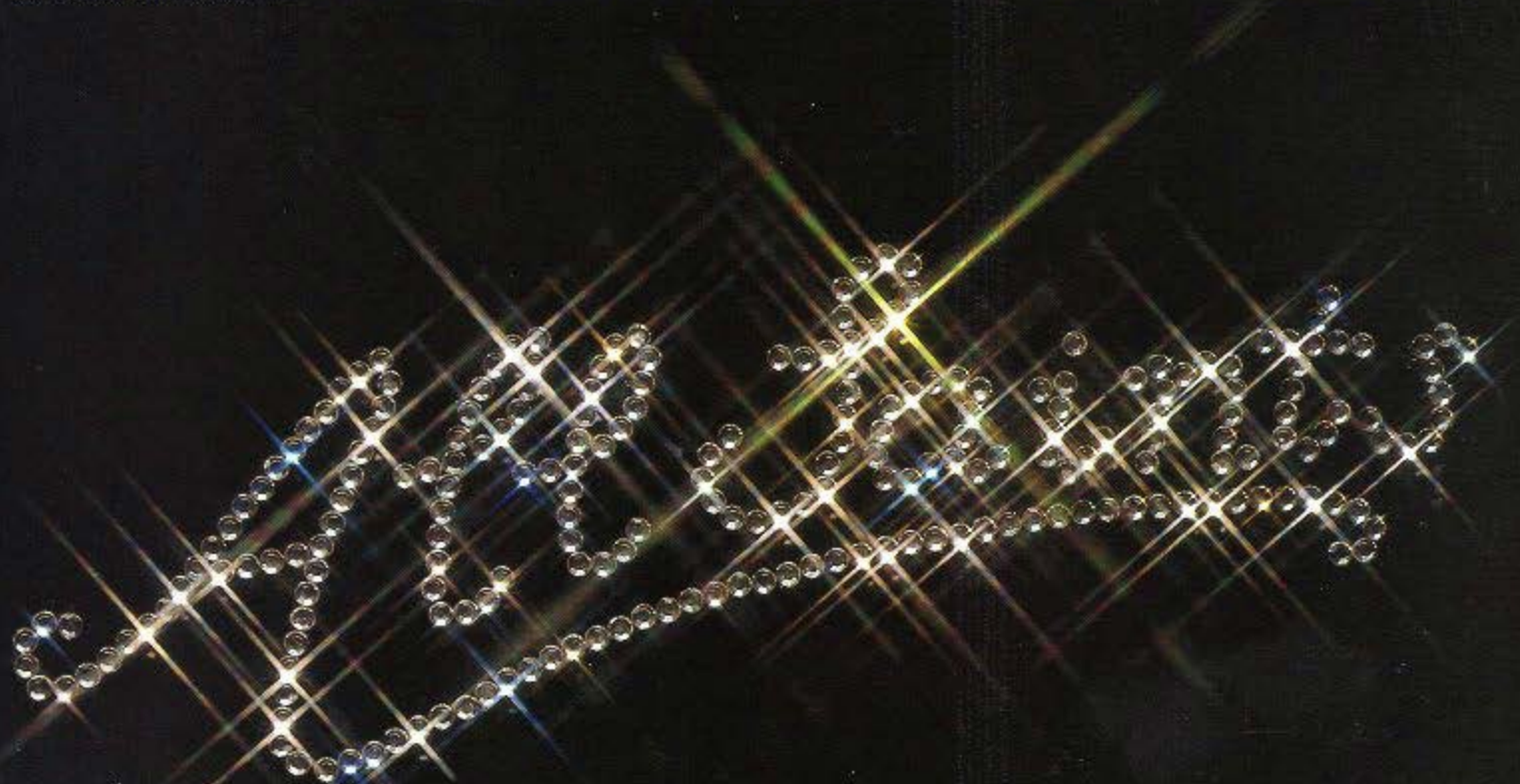
December

It's the month of the *Smash Hits* Tour, Poll Winners' Party and loads more. To find out all the gossip, turn to page 22...

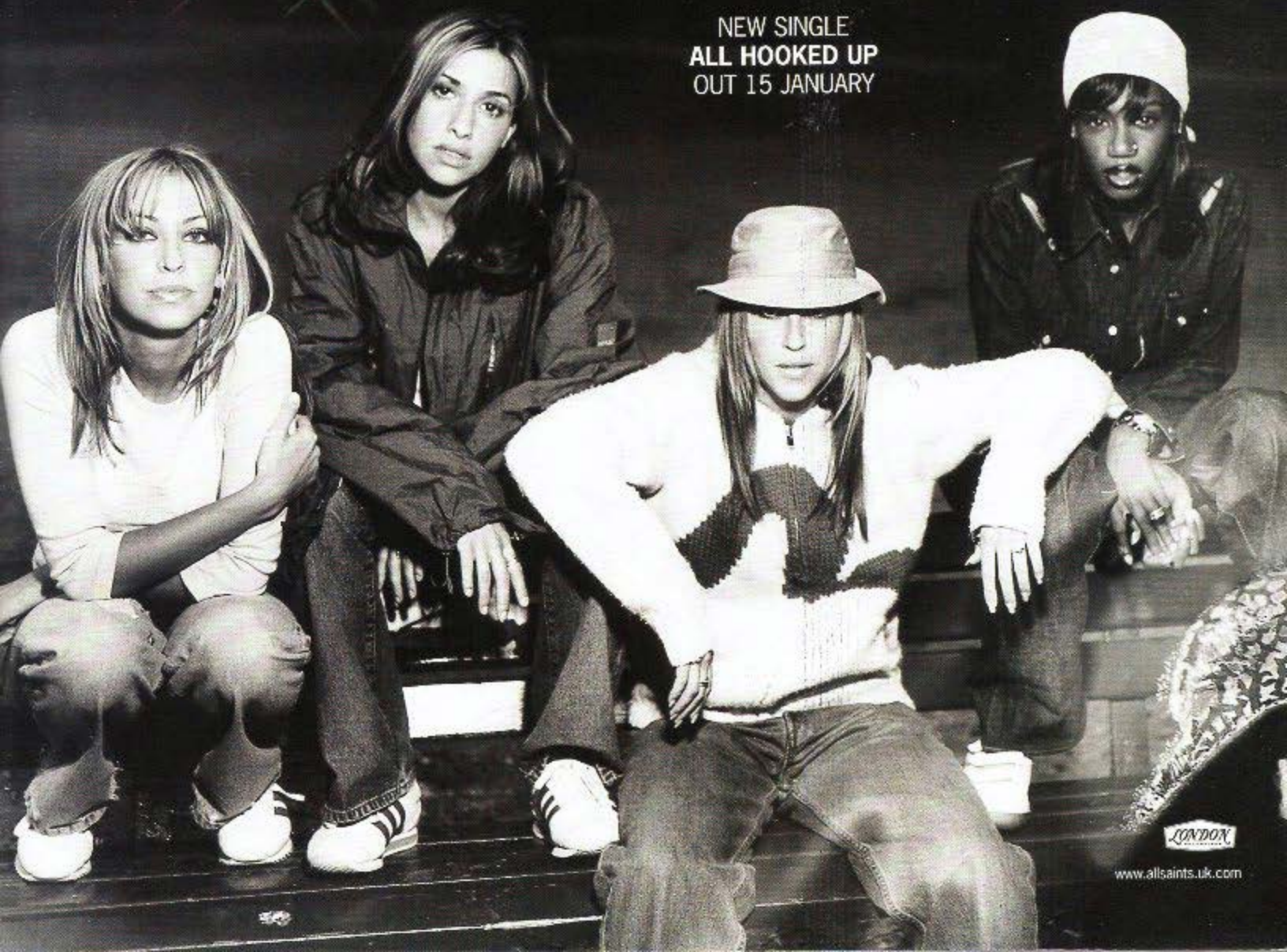


AVAILABLE ON: CD1 INCLUDES **ARCHITECHS** AND **K-GEE REMIXES**. LIMITED EDITION ENHANCED CD2 INCLUDES **ALL HOOKED UP VIDEO** AND EXCLUSIVE **BLACK COFFEE REMIX** PLUS THE HIT **NEVER EVER** AND CASSETTE.

ALL SAINTS LIVE DATES: MAY 6 MANCHESTER APOLLO MAY 10 GLASGOW CLYDE AUDITORIUM MAY 12 ABERDEEN E&CC MAY 13 EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE MAY 15 SHEFFIELD CITY HALL MAY 18 PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS MAY 19 BRIGHTON CENTRE MAY 20 CARDIFF ARENA MAY 22 BOURNMOUTH INT CENTRE MAY 23 BIRMINGHAM NIA MAY 26/27/29 LONDON HAMMERSMITH APOLLO



NEW SINGLE
ALL HOOKED UP
OUT 15 JANUARY



LONDON

www.allsaints.uk.com

BRYAN WESTLIFE AND KERRY KITTEN –

are they getting married?

→ Pop's finest pairing, Bryan and Kerry, caused a stir at the last night of the SH Tour when they dropped some heavy marriage hints. When Dane sang Another Level's *From The Heart* at karaoke, he announced he was going to sing it at their wedding. But that's not going to be in the near future, as they have no plans to tie the knot in 2001. "Dane will sing that song at our wedding," Kerry told us. "When we get married, when we've got engaged."

Bryan and Kerry, who met on last year's SH Tour, thanked readers for their support. "I read a letter from a fan in SH," said Kerry. "And I want to say thank you to everyone who's sent letters. I'm shocked and very happy. It brought a tear to my eye knowing people are behind us. SH readers are the nicest. They're genuine people."

Christian a1: an appeal

Help him find love!

→ Over the past twelve months, Christian a1 has confessed to SH that he fancies Britney, Jessica, the S Club



girls, Claire Steps, Beyoncé Destiny's Child, Kylie, Jodi and Linzi GT, Lindsay B*Witched, Caprice and Rachael Boom! among (many) others. He says, "I like girls, I can't help it." He even buys psychology books to chat up laydeez.

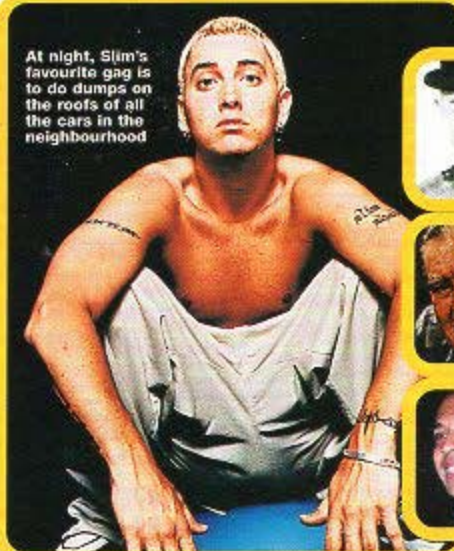
We'd like to appeal to all female pop stars to offer their hands in marriage so that young Christian can settle down. The benefit: you get to be married to a member of a1. The drawback: you have to be called Mrs Ingebritsen. (No offence, Christian's mum – Ed)



"MY FAVOURITE STAN"

BY EMINEM

At night, Slim's favourite gag is to do dumps on the roofs of all the cars in the neighbourhood



Stan Laurel

"Heh, heh, heh! This guy cracks me up. He's funny as *@*!"



Stan Ogden

"You know that crazy show, *Coronation Street*? Well, this dude sure @*!"



Stan Collymore

"Don't get me started. I've never seen such a @*?ing piece of @*?ing @*?..." (Wash your mouth out or you're fired – Ed)

WATCH OUT FOR...

Fragma

→ Fragma had a massive No1 with *Toca's Miracle* and now they're

back with a new singer – Maria Rubia. "Rubia" actually means blonde in Spanish. "My real name is Maria Templeman, but my parents live in Marbella and

people used to call me Rubia," she explains. Her other nickname is Mermald 'cos she loves swimming. She's a chatterbox and speaks seven languages!

Sygnature

→ Hayden, Paul and brothers Patrick and Dominic are Sygnature. The

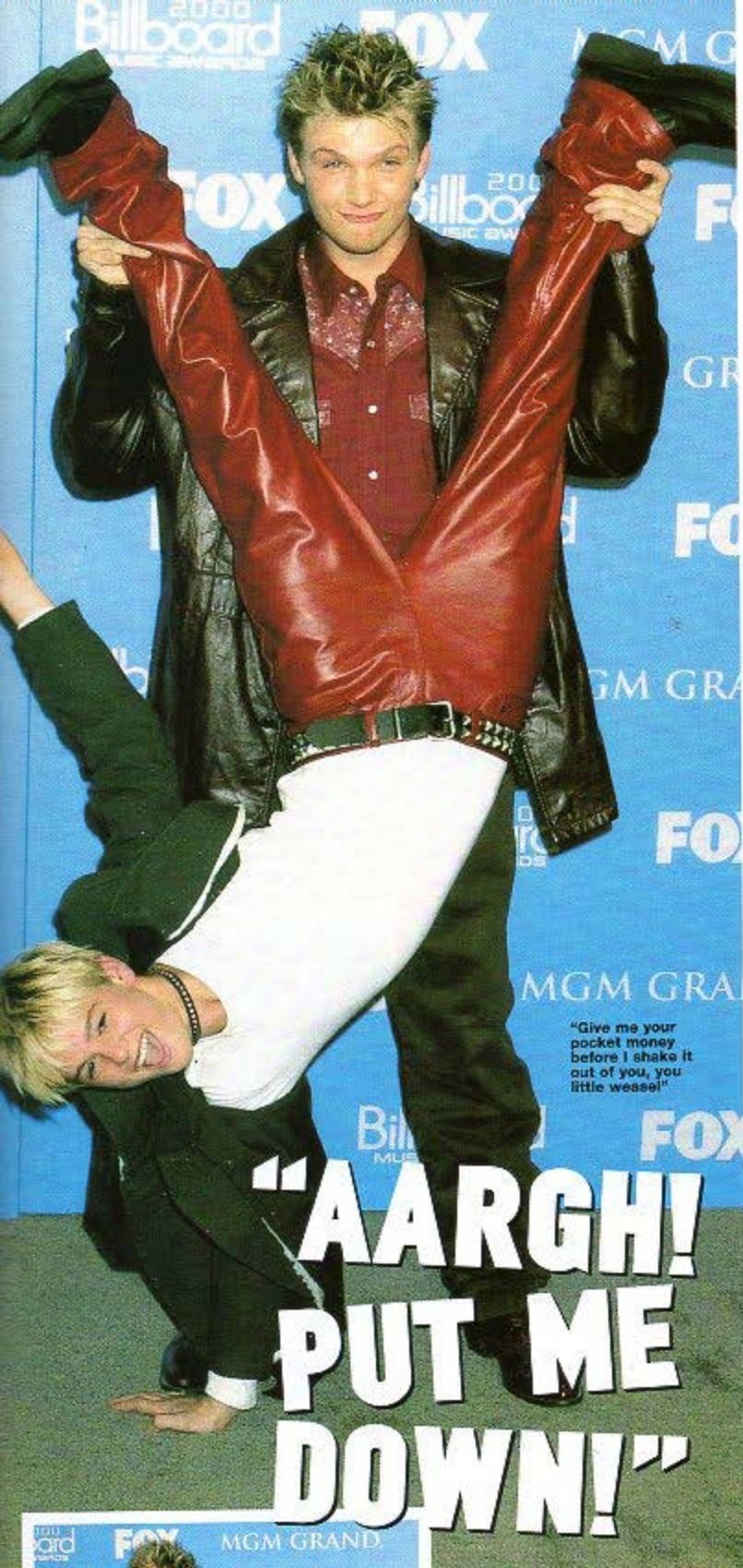
boys are all from New Jersey, USA and have duetted with the lovely Beyoncé from Destiny's Child.



They're all massive fans of other boybands: "Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync – what they're doing right now is amazing!" and even wrote five of the songs on their album!

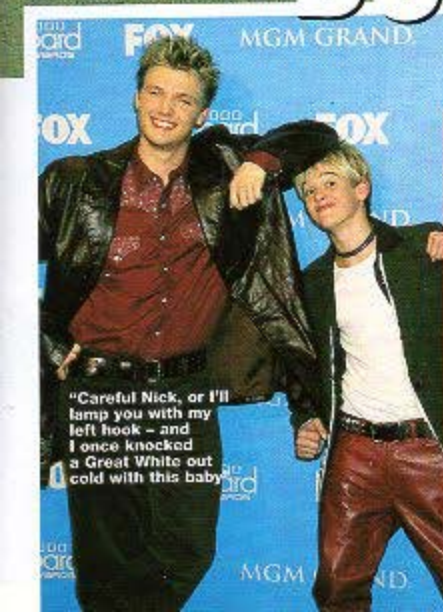


What a lovely pair



"Give me your pocket money before I shake it out of you, you little weasel!"

**"AARGH!
PUT ME
DOWN!"**



Looks like Nick and Aaron Carter have at last started work on the dance routine for that long-awaited duet of theirs. The pop brothers were caught exclusively by our snapper bustin' some pretty 'fly' moves at a secret dance studio in... (Actually, I think you'll find that's all a complete lie. Now, tell the truth, please - Ed). Oh yeah, all right, then. They're just fooling around at the recent Billboard Awards in America, where Sisqó picked up six awards and Destiny's Child won Artists Of The Year.

Front Ro'

→ Ronan played a mazin gig on Heart 106.2FM for five competition winners and *Smash Hits*. Ro' performed five of his best songs, including *Life Is A Rollercoaster* and *When You Say Nothing At All*, for five competition winners and it was broadcast live on the web.



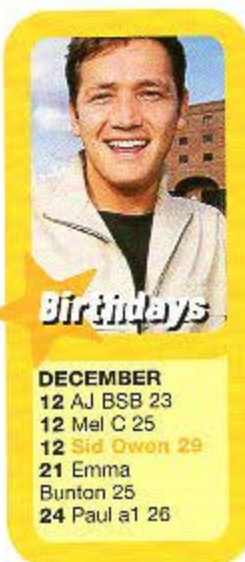
Inside Keith's stockings

→ Keith Duffy did his bit for charity when he presented the Macmillan Cancer Relief Celebrity Christmas Stocking Auction with Donna Air at The Savoy Ballroom. He did a brilliant job of getting people to part with their cash - Posh and Becks' list of presents went for £4,200, All Saints' Nicole Appleton's for £2,500 and Keith's stocking fetched a whopping £7,000!

FIVE BECOME ONE!

Is Ritchie making solo plans?

→ Ritchie Neville has hinted at work outside of Five when we caught up with him recently. Aside from the new Five single (due in April), Ritchie might have something up his sleeve which doesn't involve the other guys. "I hope our third album storms the charts in every country in the world," he said. "And on a more personal level I'm going to try to be the best person I can be. I've got my plans for next year, but I'm not willing to reveal them yet. You'll all find out..." TV presenting? A solo deal? Becoming a milkman? Ritchie has promised he'll let us (and you) know first...

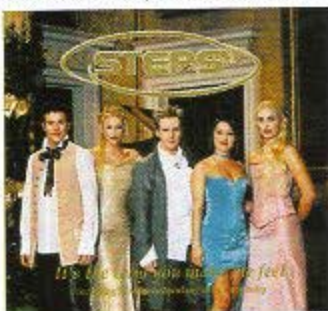


DECEMBER

12 AJ BSB 23
12 Mel C 25
12 Sid Owen 29
21 Emma Bunton 25
24 Paul a 26

Fan-tastic

→ Why have Steps, er, stepped back in time in the vid for *It's The Way You Make Me Feel*? "We wanted to do something different - not just a normal dance routine," explains Lisa. "We've got an 18th century theme with period clothes and fans. I actually had quite a bit of experience with fans anyway 'cos I was a beauty queen years ago and we always used them! The girls are a dab hand at them now, but not the boys. We all designed our own costumes so they all fit with our personalities as well."





Pop Penpals

Fancy finding a Pop Penpal? Wanna swop gossip and posters? Get scribbling to Pop Penpals at the normal *Smash Hits* address on page 62

279 WESTLIFE MAD

If you're 11-14 and mad about Westlife, a1 and Five, get scribbling! I want penpals from all around the world!
Maria, Malta

280 FOOTBALL CRAZY

I'm looking for penpals aged 15 and over. I love Westlife, 'N Sync, a1, Five, Point Break and football, especially Michael Owen!
Zoa, 16, Malaysia

281 POP PERSON

I love Westlife, Five and David Beckham. I'd love penpals from all over the world! Reply guaranteed.
Jennifer, 16, Herts

282 FIVE FANATIC

I am the world's biggest Five fan! I also like Westlife, a1 and Blink 182. If you're 13-14 and like wrestling and basketball, get writing soon.
Amy, 13, Bromsgrove

283 BSB FAN

If you believe that BSB are the best band in the world, write to me! I want penpals from all over the world.
Ching, 18, Hong Kong

284 CARTOON CRAZY

I like Five, Buffalo G, Bloodhound Gang, WWE, Friends and football! I also like *The Simpsons* and *South Park*. Reply guaranteed.
Joanne, Gateshead

285 R'N'B CRAZY

Whassup! I'm looking for a penpal aged 18 or over! I love Janet Jackson, Sisco and Craig David! No Westlife or Daphne and Celeste please.
Michelle, N Ireland

286 BRITNEY PAL

I love Westlife, Billie, Britney and Christina! I'd like penpals from Italy, France, Ireland and England, 17 or over.
Fay, 17, USA

IF YOU WANT TO REPLY TO ANY OF THE ABOVE PENPALS FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

→ Mark the number of the penpal you want to write to on the front of your envelope, with your letter to them inside.

→ Only write to one penpal per envelope.

→ The closing date for replies for these eight penpals will be January 23, 2001

→ Your letter will then be forwarded to your penpal. Good Luck!

Due to an overwhelming response and limited space, *Smash Hits* is sorry but not all the Pop Penpal letters can be printed. Please note that any letters not clearly marked will be destroyed.

The hottest letter this fortnight is...

£25

IT'S NOT CARD TO LOVE SMASH HITS!

Dear John,
I have to say how much I enjoy reading *Smash Hits*. It has gossip, secrets about famous people, photos of my favourite bands and Songword Cards. Unlike the other mags where the songwords are made out of paper, *Smash Hits* are made out of card! John, I have been collecting *Smash Hits* for about four years now, and I read the mag all in one day. I've got enhanced CDs and a CD-Rom! I have a room full of posters and a box full of your free gifts including

inflatable pens, CDs, CD hangers, wallets, you name it I've got it! I've also collected about 310 Songword Cards.
Lynsey, 12, Sydenham
Oh, just for starting a new year as a massive SH fan, have the £25 star prize. Any more hardcore *Smash Hits* there?



"H LOOKS NOTHING LIKE HIS DOLL!"

Dear John,
I would just like to complain about the new H Steps doll. It doesn't look anything like him! (i) he is always smiling (ii) he never wears sleeves!
By the way, I like the new *Smash Hits* look. *Five's* No1 Fan, 13, Selsey
The doll is like him. You should see H when he's not at SH photoshoots. Straight-faced, sleeved-up... maybe he'll be like Kylie's waxwork at Madame Tussauds and have it changed in a few years' time



DADS: A MOAN, PART 9867

Dear John,
My dad keeps winding me up saying S Club 7 haven't got any talent. He watched SM:tv with me this morning as he has hurt his leg and now he has eaten his words! Hannah was on SM:tv and she was so funny and now I can have some peace as he thought Hannah was brilliant and very talented. I won and he is now going to buy me their new CD.
Megan, S Club 7 Fan
Dads, eh? Mine doesn't even know how many members there are in S Club 7. Or Five...

a1 DON'T MAKE SENSE

Dear John
I was listening to *Same Old Brand New You* (a1). Is it me or does that not make sense? It goes, "You're the same old brand new you". So you're the same but one second later you're brand new. Apart from that it is a fantastic song! And Billie Piper's *Something Deep Inside* goes, "Can't feel but I can touch." Don't feel and touch mean the same? Even though they don't make sense I bought both

D&C ROCK!

Dear John,
I don't know why people don't like Daphne and Celeste because I met them at Pop 2000, just before they were about to go on stage and they were chatting to me and my friend. They do say horrible things about people but come on, they can have their own opinions.
Laura, Warwickshire
I agree. But where was D&C's attempt at the Christmas No1?



of them and they made it to the Top Ten!
A1 Fan, Preston
You've helped a1 to two No1s. But don't take *Like A Rose* too literally, otherwise Ben would stand in soil all day

"SLIPKNOT ARE THE BEST!"

Dear John,
My fave band are believe it or not, Slipknot. Why do you never print anything about them? I think they are the best band ever. They are cool, write great songs and can play their instruments. So why not do a feature on them? None of my friends like them, they like Green Day. Corey 'Knot is a great singer, so don't give them hassle, OK!
Steph, Scotland
I love Slipknot - I've hung out with Chris and Shawn before at the Kerrang! Awards. And Marilyn Manson. So there!

BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER!

Dear John
Apa khabar (how are you)? I'm Afiz from Malaysia. I've been reading your magazine for a long time and I really think that you guys do a very good job. I hope you like my black and white issue of *Smash Hits*.
Terima, Malaysia
That's cool, Terima. Keep those home-made *Smash Hits* comin' in!



THE TOP TEN GIRLS IN POP!

Dear John,
In a recent issue you asked us to send you in our top ten girls. Here's mine -

- 1 Britney Spears
- 2 Christina Aguilera
- 3 Billie
- 4 Natasha Kitten
- 5 Rachel 7
- 6 Hannah 7
- 7 Lisa Steps
- 8 Samantha Mumba
- 9 Kerry Kitten
- 10 Tina 7

Can I also say that *Smash Hits* is absolutely brilliant and I haven't missed a copy of it for years.
Steven, Ayrshire
Thanks, Steven. I agree with a lot of your top ten but where are Faye and Claire? Keep those top tens rolling in...

Britney Spears

Just for Steph in Scotland (see below), here I am with Chris Slipknot. Send your rants, gossip, jokes, snaps, doodles etc. to: **Dear John Smash Hits Letters Page**, Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF. Email us at: sh.hot!mail@emap.com If your letter's printed you get a **Smash Hits** pen and the best letter gets £25!



lead guitar and is also gorgeous and cares for his fans. More than you can say about Steps or Five. And then you tried to diss Bon Jovi for saying the truth about that terrible group Steps. Wake up teenies! Real music lies in talented bands like The Foo Fighters and Bon Jovi, not the band who has an annoying member called H. **Smash Hits**, get your facts right! Angry Dave Grohl fan, Hereford I think it's a bit unfair of you to slag off Steps and Five for not caring about fans. But there's room for everyone on Planet Pop – we've been to Daphne & Celeste AND Jon Bon Jovi's house in the past year!

THANKS, SMASH HITS!

Dear John
I must just thank everyone at **Smash Hits** for the fabulous, exciting, wonderful mousemat you gave away free. I chose the one with the gorgeous Craig David, Ronan and Five on. I don't know why because I don't have a computer therefore a mousemat would be useless to me. Please could you send me the £25 to help me start my computer money saving! Plummers, Surrey
You started by saying thanks. I was thinking about giving you the Star Letter. Then you spoilt it by asking for money. D'oh!

I LOVE ROCK 'N' GROHL

Dear John,
I was sickened to see that in your November 15 issue you attempted to diss Dave Grohl. How dare you! I am so angry as this is a man who has more talent in his little toe than any of the acts you have in your magazine. (Steady – John) He is not only an awesome drummer he now fronts the best band around – The Foo Fighters. He writes all his songs, produces, directs his videos, plays bass and



Here's what's got you lot hot under the collar this fortnight...

26% a1 – you saw 'em on the SH Tour and can't get enough (specially Ben)

22% Our free gifts – you loved the mousemat and free CDs. Hope you like your photo album

18% Westlife – surprise, surprise!

16% **Smash Hits** Poll Winners' Party No, we don't have spare tickets for next year, yet!

14% BSB v 'N Sync Stop! The war is over!

6% Raw! Slipknot, Bon Jovi, Foo Fighters rock yer world (if you're not an SC7 fan)

Dear Abby

Want info on your fave band? Email us at sh.dearabby@emap.com or write to us at **Dear Abby, Smash Hits**, Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF and we'll get to the bottom of it. Plus every letter that gets printed will receive a fantastic **Smash Hits** pen



"What's Geri up at the mo'?"

DEAR ABBY... I am a big fan of Geri and was just wondering if you could tell me what she's up to and also when a new single and album will be coming out?
Sarah, Bristol
Geri is a very busy lady at the moment, and you'll be pleased to hear that she is mixing her brand new album! Hurrah! Geri has finished recording and is

dealing with all those technical bits to make it sound even better. When the album is completely finished, Geri will then decide what single is going to be released first – it'll be out at the beginning of this year sometime. The album will then be released soon after. So not too long to wait hopefully, Sarah!

"Can I see Robbie on video?"

DEAR ABBY... I went and saw Robbie Williams at the London Arena. He was brilliant and proved that he is the No1 entertainer ever. Is Robbie going to release a video of the tour?

Daniella, Middlesex

Unfortunately, there are no plans to release a video yet but he's hoping to get it into the shops sometime this year. In the meantime, treat yourself to Robbie's *Where Egos Dare* DVD which is out now. It's got highlights from his Slane Castle gig, the *Rock DJ* video with extra footage and a bonus track, *Dance With The Devil*. And you can see Robbie perform songs from his Manchester show at www.robbiewilliams.com.



"What's next for All Saints?"

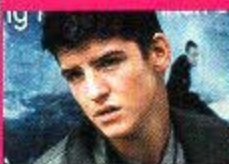
DEAR ABBY... I am All Saints' biggest fan and love their new album. Do you know what single they are releasing next and what they are up to?

Jane, London

Well Jane, All Saints are releasing *All Hooked Up* on January 15. It's a sexy, sassy track written by Shaznay and Karl 'K-Gee' Gordon. *Saints And Sinners* is about to go double-platinum and is set to follow in the footsteps of their superb multi-platinum debut album which has now sold over

10 million copies worldwide, including two million in the UK alone and almost two million in the USA! For more info on the girls, write to All Saints, PO Box 50, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2US.

Write to...



James Alexandrou,
c/o BBC Elstree
Centre, Clarendon
Road, Borehamwood,
Herts WD6 1JF



Mel C, PO Box
25777, London
SW20 8EW

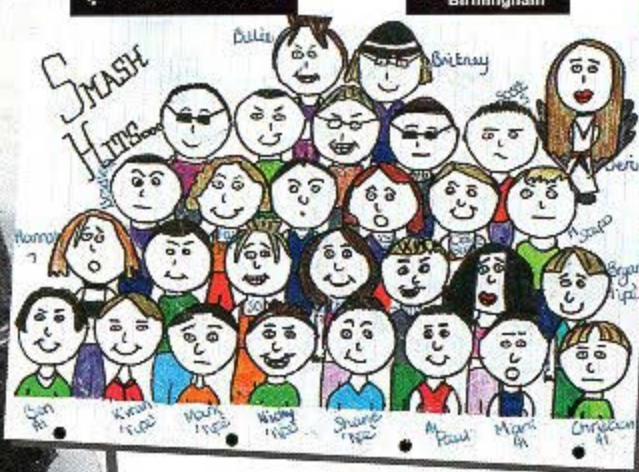


Texas, c/o Mercury
Records, 136-144
New Kings Road,
London SW6 4FX

Pop Art

← Britney by Bernadette, Scotland

↓ Planet Pop, Louise Hunt, Birmingham



blag!

Win all this...
now!

1 Corrs Stuff

The Corrs are on tour and we have a pair of tickets for one winner to see them at Manchester Evening News Arena on January 28. Five runners-up get a video, special edition album and sweatshirt.



09063 613 237



Corrs Stuff/Smash Hits, PO Box 57, Peterborough PE4 5HD

2 The Beach Videos

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment have released the fantastic film, *The Beach*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, on video and DVD and we've got ten copies to give away.



09063 613 238



The Beach Videos/Smash Hits, PO Box 57, Peterborough PE4 5HD

3 Gift Games

Cryo have bought out a fab new game for the GameBoy called *Gift*, about a cheeky little hero and his wild adventures. We've got three games to give away along with three GameBoy Color consoles.



09063 613 239



Gift Games/Smash Hits, PO Box 57, Peterborough PE4 5HD

4 Kylie Bags & Albums

We've managed to get our hands on these exclusive, trendy Kylie bags and we've got five to give away along with Kylie's *Hits* + album, a must for all Kylie fans out there!



09063 613 240



Kylie Bags & Albums/Smash Hits, PO Box 57, Peterborough PE4 5HD

5 Clubber's Guide Albums

The Clubber's Guide to 2001, out on January 15, has got more than 40 pumping dance choons to set the pace for the New Year and we've got 20 copies to give away, along with some T-shirts.



09063 613 241



Clubbers Album/Smash Hits, PO Box 57, Peterborough PE4 5HD

6 Spice Girls Stuff

We've got the ultimate prize for Spice Girls fans - funky *Holler* and *Let Love Lead The Way* tops, plus copies of the *Holler* single and album *Forever* to give away to five lucky winners.



09063 613 242



Spice Girls Stuff/Smash Hits, PO Box 57, Peterborough PE4 5HD

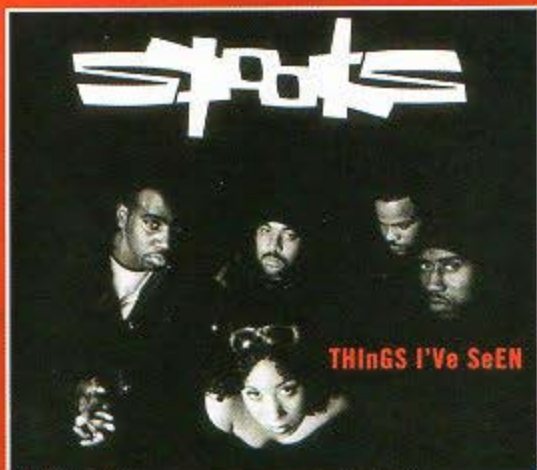


Calls cost 60p per minute at all times. Please ask permission from the person who pays the phone bill. Unfortunately, only readers in the UK can enter by telephone. Don't forget to include your name and address on postal entries. Winners will be picked at random from all calls and postcards received by January 23, 2001.

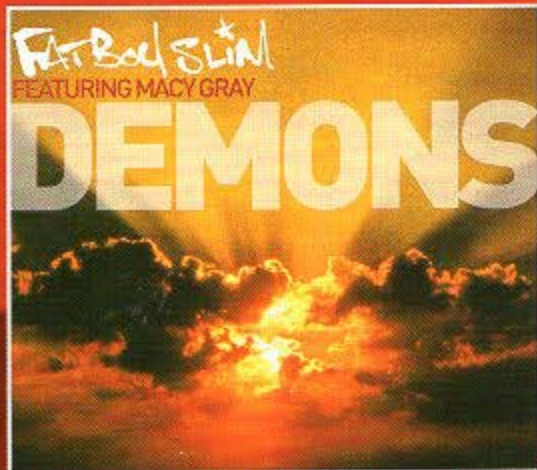


Come and get it

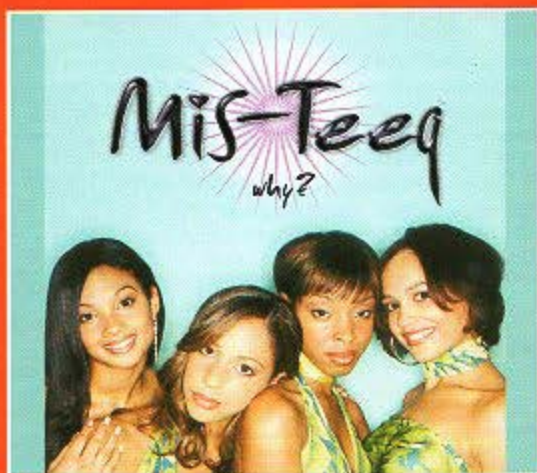
Get down to Our Price for all the latest single releases.



Spooks
'Things I've Seen'.



Fatboy Slim feat. Macy Gray
'Demons'.



Mis-teeq
'Why'.



Anastacia
'Not That Kind'.
Released 22.01.01.

our price

What you want to hear

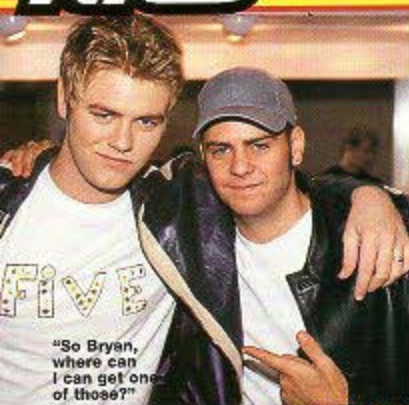
Details correct at time of going to press and may vary in Northern Ireland.

Smash! hits

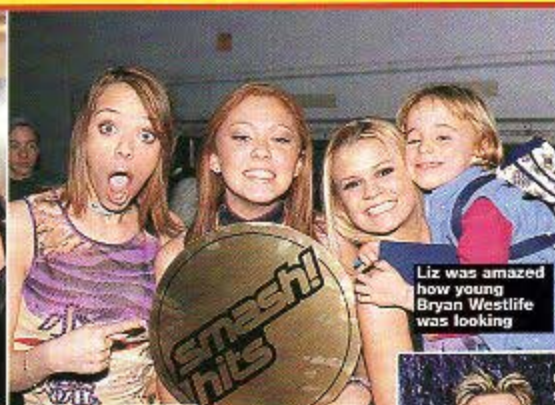
POLL WINNERS' PARTY 2000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WOOLWORTHS

THE MOST WEEKEND



"So Bryan, where can I get one of those?"



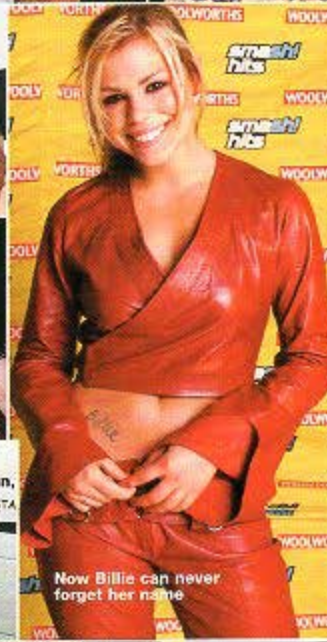
Liz was amazed how young Bryan Westlife was looking



...that's not funny



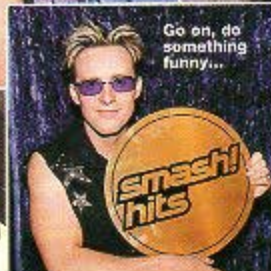
Mel Saint and Sharleen Spiteri. Quite



Now Billie can never forget her name



Gold medal, pah! Have a Smash Hits award, Steve



Go on, do something funny...



Best Solo Male meets Best Duo



But Christian, you didn't need to buy tickets



"Cheer up, Jamie, we won"

WHAT GOES ON WHEN YOU GET A SQUILLION OF THE WORLD'S POP STARS UNDER ONE ROOF, FOR THE POLL WINNERS' PARTY. READ ON...

SATURDAY

9AM Rehearsals start when a1 arrive to rehearse on their highwires for their flying routine. "We've been up since six and we've got to rush off to CD:UK. We've got loads of dancers," says Paul with a saucy glint in his eye. Tim, a1 (and Steps') manager directs them - he used to produce the PWP back in the mists of time.

2PM Richard Blackwood and Louise are sharing a dressing room. Does Jamie know?

2.30PM Steps arrive, minus H. He has a cold, and they sent him home after CD:UK. Claire is about to reveal her shocking new 'do - it's red!

3PM Five arrive, and are playing with the electric roof of their fancy new sports car. "Is that yours?" we ask J, as he says, "No, it's that flash git's over there," pointing at Scott.

4PM Abs meanwhile boasts, "I must be the only person in the arena who could go swimming right now," as he shows us swimming trunks under

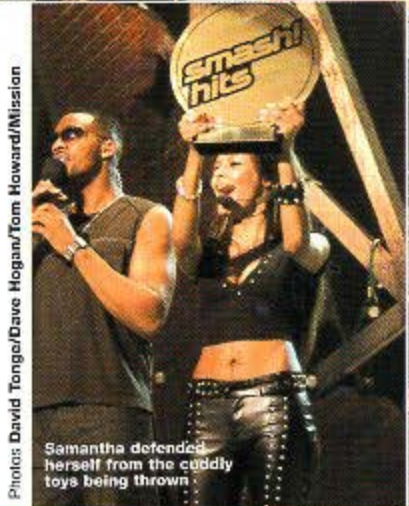
his jeans. Judging from Kylie's underclad dancers, rehearsing nearby, he's not right...

4.15PM Ritchie is washing his hair for a photoshoot when his press officer walks in on the shower - and quickly out again...

4.30PM The Five boys show for a SH photoshoot in their white joke stage outfits. They are v. keen to stress this is for one show only.

5PM Lee shows us his latest knee injury, remarkably not motorbike-related. "I did it on stage the other night during *Better The Devil* in front of however many thousand people. I was just going lalalala and then crunch. Luckily it was near the end of the song, so I hobbled off stage, the guys didn't know so they were doing the intro for the next song while I was trying to stretch my leg and get some ice on it. The show must go on..."

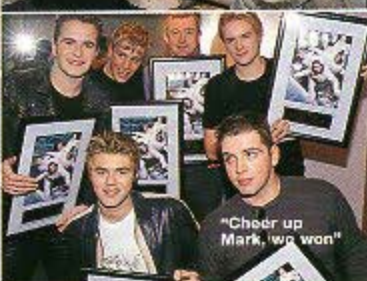
6PM Pop stars are trapped in the building, as there's a bomb scare!



Samantha defended herself from the cuddly toys being thrown



Sonique gives the thumbs-up



"Cheer up, Mark, we won"

LEE STEPS
What are you wearing?
We're all in sparkly outfits. I've got a purple shirt and black trousers with a purple stripe down the side - but they're very shiny trousers, almost like John Travolta velvet. Very full-on. They're made specially for us by our designer, no, not H with his scissors and sewing

machine, but I don't know how much they cost.
Who let the dogs out?
Do what? I haven't got a dog. Who did let the dogs out? The Baha Men.
Who do you want to snog?
Rachel S Club, but if she's too popular, I'd love you to put a word in for me with Beyoncé...

JACK RYDER
What are you wearing today?

T-shirt with Elvis on it from his actual place where his house is, a jacket which cost me £5, watch, jeans and trainers.
Who let the dogs out?
No comment!
Who do you wanna snog?
No-one - honest.

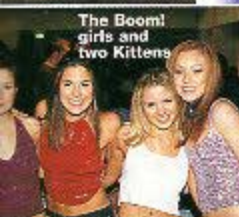
TASH KITTEN
What are you wearing today?
A spangly top from

Warehouse, DKNY jeans that I cut the waistband off for a choker. It probably cost about £150.
Who let the dogs out?
Daphne and Celeste are the dogs!
Who do you wanna snog?
Haven't got my claws into anyone yet but give me a while. It's early days yet.

RITCHIE FIVE
How much did your outfit cost?
These suits cost £1,000 each. They're made by Donatella, obviously.
Who do you wanna snog?
No-one really.
All right then, who are you looking forward to seeing?
I suppose Bryan Westlife. He's a good lad.

Where's The May?
He's not coming - he's very busy. He's probably busy somewhere else.
BRYAN WESTLIFE
How much did your outfit cost?
It didn't cost me anything - I made it myself, I sewed on all the stars!
Who would you like to snog at the party?
My girlfriend, Kerry, of course.

POP-PACKED OF THE YEAR!



SUNDAY

9.30AM a1 show us their cycling shorts, only worn 'cos they're flying. "They make it a bit softer round your bits," explains Mark.

10AM A v. tired **Samantha Mumba** rehearses. She looks like she's falling asleep 'til her dancers make her laugh.

10.15AM **Paul and Bradley 7** found asleep in a1's dressing room. Brad was out clubbing 'til 5am!

10.30AM Overheard: **Ronan** and **Louise** chatting 'bout babies

10.45AM **Darren Garden** enters the dressing room he's sharing with **All Saints** to find Mel's Liliyella playing with his bag.

11.15AM **Ronan** walks into artist catering and spots someone in a baseball cap. "Pop star!" he screams pointing, before popping over to give **Shaznay** (for tis she) a hug.

11.45AM **Darren Garden** admits he fancies **Kylie**.

MIDDAY **Ronan** got very excited when he introduced his tour manager Mark's daughter **Esme** to **Tina 7**. "She loves you," Tina is told by Ro', who groans to us, "Next

year, it'll be Jack who'll be itching to meet all these bands. Then I'll feel really old."

12.15PM Spotted! **Lisa Steps** holding hands with boyfriend **Johnny Boom!** Aw!

1PM In artist catering, future pop star™ **Liliyella All Saint** is singing **Madonna's Music** to any artist who will listen. "She's driving me mad," admits mum **Mel**.

1.10PM **Nic All Saint's** "LIAM" T-shirt was the talk of backstage. "When people talk to me they look at my tummy and not my face these days," she moans. "What will happen when I get really big?"

1.20PM **Cheyne Madison Avenue** is worried about her outfit. She paraded around in a full-length white winter coat. "Do you think I look like a dirty old flasher in this?" she kept asking us. We point out that **Kylie's** dancers might appreciate it.

1.30PM New boys **Reel** chat to old-hand, **Ronan**.

1.45PM **Shane** and **Nicky Westlife** have been out 'til 4am and **Kian** is on the phone to a newspaper. He's not happy. "It's a

story about me and **Samantha Mumba** and it's not true!" **Bryan**'s wearing a **Five** T-shirt as a tribute to his (new) fave band (**Bryan & Kerry** plan to see **Five** at **Wembley** later).

2PM **SH** Tour pals **Boom!** and **Atomic Kitten** catch up.

2.15PM We interview **Jack Ryder** and **Natalie Cassidy** comes up to say hi. He tells her to go away and she pretends to be in a huff. **Bradley 7** interrupts too!

2.30PM Trousers alert! **Tash Kitten!** - "I have to tie my jacket round my waist 'cos I had these jeans and I thought I'd cut the waistband off and make it into a choker. But now when I walk they fall down and you can see the crack in my bum!"

2.45PM **Jo 7** saw the picture of **Paul 7** dressed as **Gladiator** and said: "I want that in a frame to put up in my room!"

2.50PM Just before curtain up, we present **Westlife** with special covers in honour of their achievements. They're v. nervous...

2.59PM Hey! It's showtime...

JON 7

What are you wearing?

Variations of our video clothes. It's our snowy, winter look.

How much did they cost?
I haven't got a clue but they're nice clothes, and the girls' coats are all suede so I expect they were expensive.
Who let the dogs out?

(Laughs) I didn't, but I normally do every night before I go to bed, so she can have a wee.
Who do you wanna snog at the party?
Ooh, **Natalie Cassidy** from **EastEnders**, she's my mate and she's wicked.

SHARLEEN SPITERI

What are you wearing?

A dirty, old sweatshirt, a dirty, old army jacket,

a woolly hat, very old trousers and a pair of trainers.
How much did it cost?
Not a lot. It's not about how much it costs though, it's about how good it looks.
Who let the dogs out?
I certainly didn't and I didn't let them in either.
Who d'you wanna snog?
Absolutely no-one - oh actually yes I do, **Mel All Saint!**

SONIQUE

Where did you get your outfit?

I have a really good stylist, **Jimmy**, who's a good friend of mine. He knows what I like.

Who let the dogs out?

I haven't got a dog.

STEVE REDGRAVE

Are your children watching?

I've got three, but they're at swimming

lessons, so they're taping it. They like **Steps**. I prefer **Tina Turner**.
Where did you get your outfit?
It's just something I threw on this morning. I've got a new suit for tonight 'cos I'm on **BBC Sports Personality Of The Year**. (He won!)

Which is the best award to win?

Smash Hits - thanks to everyone who voted for me.

BEN AL

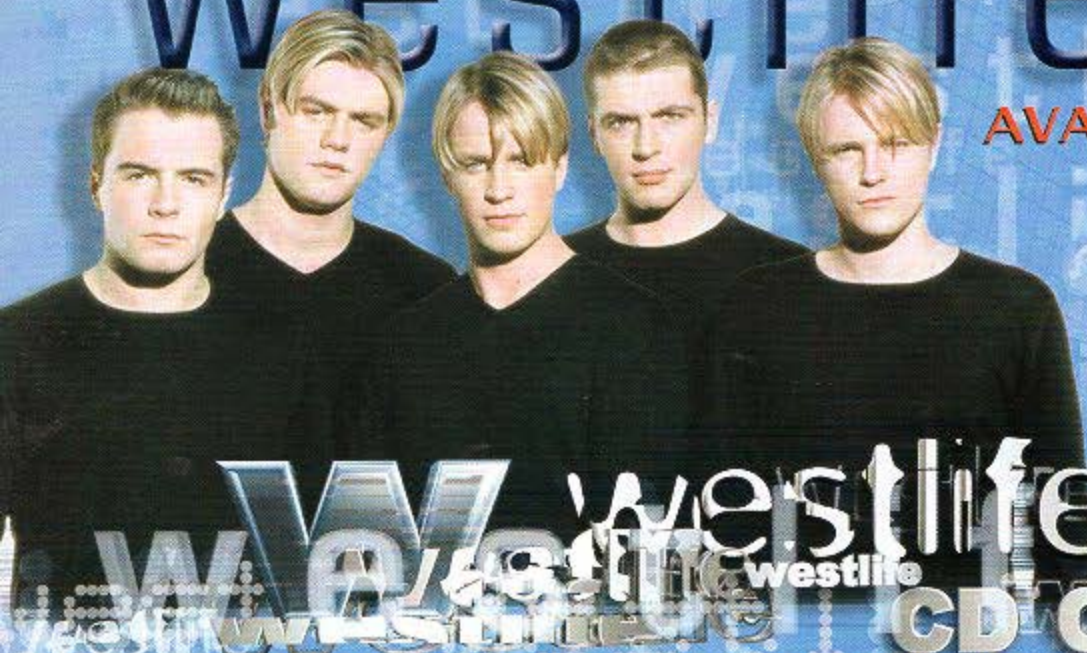
What are you wearing?

Bicycle shorts and a T-shirt.
How much did it cost?

About 50p we spent so much money on the flying!
Who let the dogs out?
I had to kick a couple out actually.
Who d'you wanna snog?
I don't even know who's going. (**Kylie** walks past) Oh, go on then!

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"UNBELIEVABLE!"

IF YOU'VE SEEN IT, YOU'LL KNOW IT WAS THE SPANGLIEST, MOST POP-TASTIC 90 MINUTES EVER! AND IF YOU MISSED IT (DOH!), HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED!

➤ **Steps** kick off the appearing from spinning mirrorballs. **H**, who has flu, has made it in to pick up his Funniest Person award.

➤ **Westlife** posed with their six awards and Shane said backstage "Smash Hits has been brilliant to us, and these awards are massive!" Nicky said "Could we have eight, please?" and just shouted, "Unbelievable!" Kian said, "They didn't let us make a speech" but Bryan said, "It's OK, I got to say, 'Boo!' to the crowd!" The guys took one each home, except Shane, who took two as he also won Most Fanciable Male. Nicky curled up in his dressing room, using his award as a pillow.

➤ **a1** flew on stage! Ben thanked SH calling us "the best magazine in the world" (How many covers do you want this year? - Ed).

➤ **Kylie**'s million and one dancers were watched by **Savage Garden**, **Yvonne Keating** and **Bradley** 7.

➤ **Yvonne** watched proudly as **Ronan** picked up his two awards. He chuckled about the Best Dressed one, which **Nicky Westlife** had his eye on. "He's got a bit to wait yet," laughed Ro'.

➤ **Steve Redgrave** said, "This is the best award to win" as he picked up the Hero/Heroine Of 2000 award.

➤ **Samantha Mumba** thanked **Smash Hits** "for supporting me since day one" and was congratulated by Ro' backstage for her first award.

➤ **S Club 7** watched the show backstage after performing *Never Had A Dream Come True*. "I wish we could have done an uptempo one," sighed Bradley. "We didn't mind not winning an award, it was great to be here."

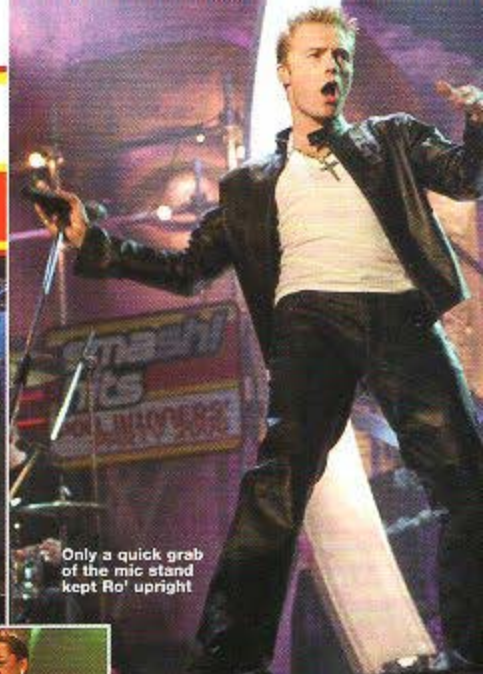
➤ **J** nearly bowled **Kerry Kitten**, watching **Westlife**, over to get on stage. Five are v. keen we don't use pictures of them in white suits, as a poster series, the way we did with the firemen pics. This is not, they repeat, not, their new image.

➤ **Ben a1**, **Tash & Liz Kitten**, **Ollie Point Break**, **Ben ex-Phats & Small** and **Dane**, who DJs, join SH for a drink after the show. **Westlife** wanted to come, but had to up at 5.30am to go to Norway the next day. Who said being a pop star was all glamour?

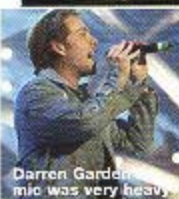
➤ The www.smashhits.net spies were behind the scenes at the Poll Winners' Party. Check out the site holding page for an exclusive look at what was going on backstage. And there's a Poll Winners' diary with all the gossip, some great screensavers to download and you can have fun with Point Break. A taste of what's to come on www.smashhits.net



Is it cold in here, or is it me?



Only a quick grab of the mic stand kept Ro' upright



Darren Gardner's mic was very heavy



All right, girls?



Billic had an itchy neck



Sonique rocks



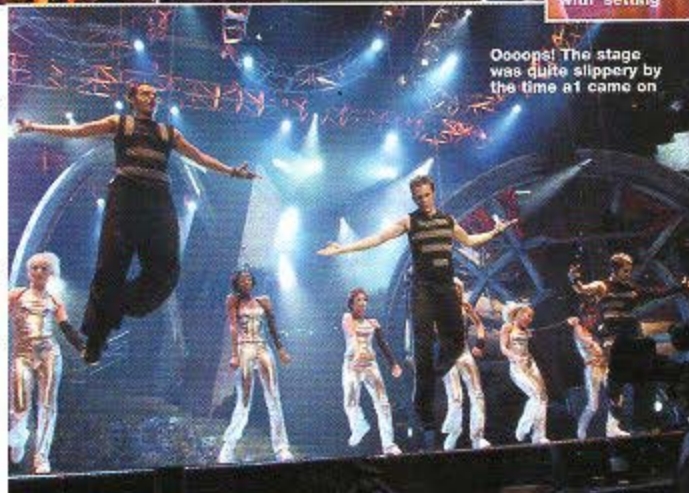
Er no, Bry, you won six awards



Cup of tea, anyone?



Madison Avenue's volleyball coaching course started with 'setting'



Ooops! The stage was quite slippery by the time a1 came on



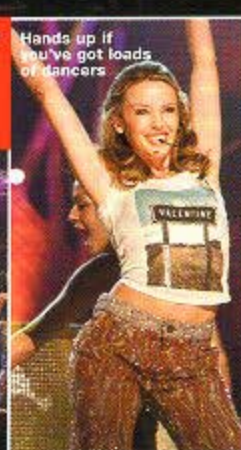
The right-hand side of the audience...



Samantha was the clear winner at Musical Statues



...proved very popular



Hands up if you've got loads of dancers



"Sorry, 20 pence please"



Steps had all used the same dodgy roll-on

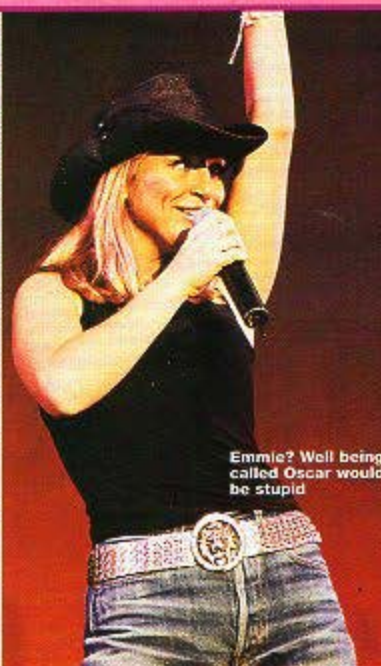
Smash! TOUR 2000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH TROUBLE T

Smash! TOUR 2000
hits
TROUBLE
AA

Westlife, a1, Atomic Kitten, Samantha Mumba, Point Break and loads more star in the round-up of all the juicy gossip...

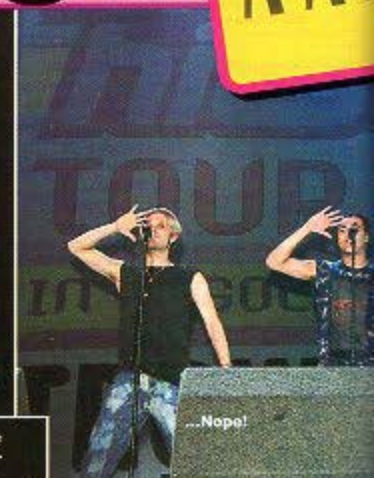
Pictures Tom Howard/Hannah Baker



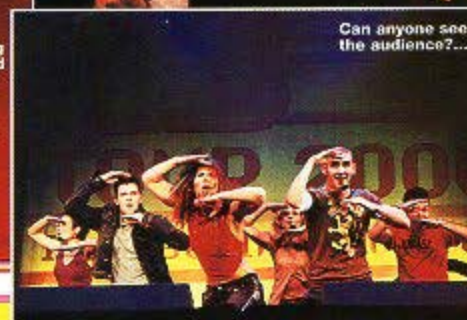
Emmie? Well being called Oscar would be stupid



"One, two, three, four, get with the Westlife"



...Nope!



Can anyone see the audience?...



Smash Hits DJ Darren says hi



TUESDAY

Day one - we're off to Cardiff!

9am

The SH bus is off! New band B-Factor are on board as they've just flown in from America and have managed to scrounge a lift.

2pm

Hard men of pop Keith and Shane spread joy by handing out lollies to everyone on the way to Cardiff Arena. Keith is newly shorn after a trip to Shane's 'hair salon' on the bus. He chopped a lump out of the back of his hair and had to shave the lot off.

3pm

It's the first day of the SH Tour and there's rehearsing to be done. Atomic Kitten are in the front row of the audience, but Kerry's all wrapped up. "Don't come too close, I've got flu," she warns. That doesn't stop her flashing her new Winnie The Pooh tattoo, something that she'll repeat throughout the Tour. Billie's keeping a low profile, and she's embarrassed to hear she's about to pick up a Sexiest Pop Star Award from BBC Wales. She's distracted by the sight of Bomfunk MCs, and soon she and several pop girls admit taking a fancy to their rapper, Raymond.

5.30pm

A spot of bother in the artists' catering room, when dinner is interrupted by pop star vandalism. One of Bomfunk MCs' dancers smashes a hole in the wall while trying to walk up it to do a fancy flip.

6.30pm

Girl Thing are in the building! They've just flown in from Australia in the morning, especially for the Tour.

Anika's feeling a bit woozy because she was hit on the head by a big light while filming their video out there.

7pm

With half an hour to go 'til showtime, Cheyne Madison Avenue still hasn't decided what to wear for tonight's performance. She ignores SH's warning about it being nippy out and opts for a bun-baring skimpy number. "I know we've attracted a lot of attention with our outfits," she laughs. "But technically we are fully-covered."

7.30pm

The crowds going mad, the lights go down and the show begins.

Later...

Show's over and now it's time to party. Point Break, Ben, Mark and Christian a1, Nikki GT, Ortis, various members of Boom and B-Factor - and of course Keith and Shane - are up until 3.30am. a1 and Point Break lead the singalong with *Hey Jude*, *Fame*, *Angels* and *Take On Me*, except they abandon it halfway through because everyone has a bit of trouble reaching the high notes. A ruck nearly kicks off when Shane comes over during *Baby Can I Hold You?* "Are you starting something?" he sneers to the trembling boyband wusses, before laughing, "Nah, I'm just buzzing you!" Haha, er, ha. Time for bed then...

BEST BIT OF THE DAY

The loudest screams of the night come when Samantha Mumba's ten-year-old brother Omaro joins her on stage. He's like the Mini-Me of Sisqo, joining in with her dance routine, then waving to the crowd until their cheers are deafening.

WEDNESDAY

Bribery, bad clothes and bananas in Newcastle...

6pm

Point Break are looking forward to playing to the home crowd, but Dec is looking rough after his big one the night before. He looks hurt when we ask if he's out again tonight. "Course I'm going out!" he squeals, admitting, "but I did feel rough this morning."

8pm

Point Break are warming up backstage, stretching and jumping around like loons. Very wise though as they dance their pants off on stage and the home crowd love it.

8.45pm

Richard Blackwood and Bryan Westlife hang out with Samantha Mumba and her family backstage. We notice Sam and little bro are wearing matching trainers (white adidas with three silver stripes). "I know, sad isn't it!" giggles Sam. Bryan and Richard Blackwood mess about backstage making bananas into rude shapes. "What's wrong with these Newcastle bananas?" asks Bryan, innocently.

9.20pm

Shane and Keith don't appear to have talked to each other before they chose their outfits for this tour. Shane jumps about the stage throwing hip-hop shapes dressed in a spangly gold sleeveless shirt and black satin treads, while Keith appears to be wearing a pair of grey M&S slacks and plain black shirt. They're watched by Mark and Nicky Westlife who don't seem to be bothered by the "Westlife, get a life" line.

9.30pm

Ben and Mark a1 stand backstage watching her and wait for Christian and Paul to join them. Ben's sporting an attractive red leather jacket and says, "I'm doing my Michael Jackson impression!"

10.05pm

a1 get the sauciest fans award as a record five pairs of knickers are thrown on to the stage when they appear. We're not sure whether all of a1's fans have quite got the point, however - one of them asks us to get hers back off the stage for her! In ten seconds, Ben manages:

- Two winks
- One tongue wag
- One of 'H's' bendy hand waves
- Three cheeky grins

The biggest scream of their set comes when the band remove their jackets and Mark tells the crowd, "I wish we could take more clothes off!"

10.15pm

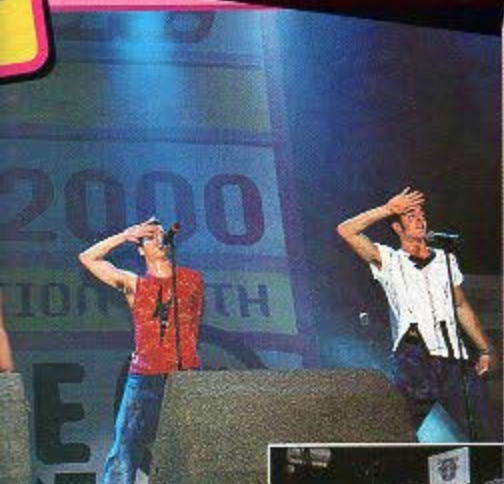
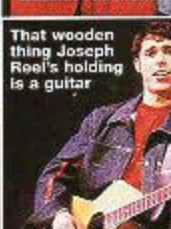
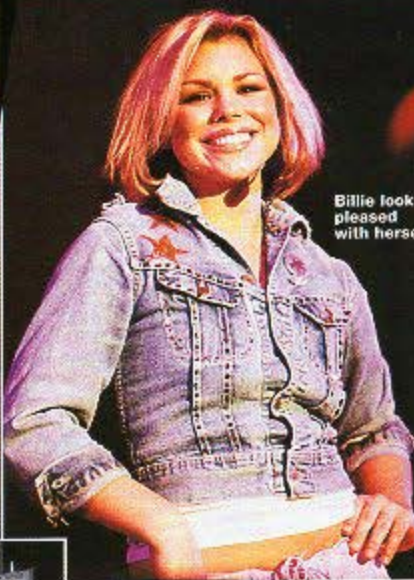
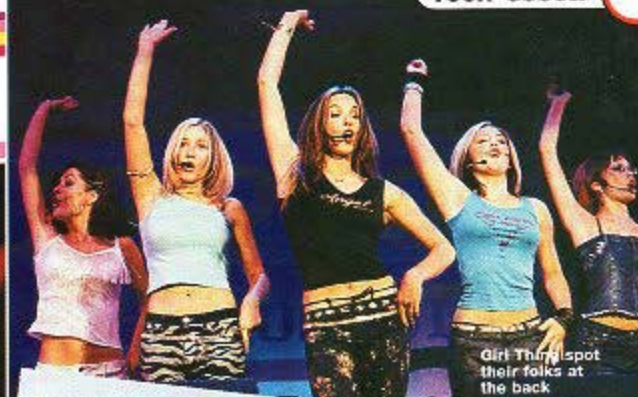
Westlife are enjoying themselves but keep going wrong. The boys get the songs mixed up, while Bryan keeps laughing and dancing like a loon, which Shane finds very amusing.

Later...

A night of clubbing and lemonade. Shane and Kian Westlife and Keith Boyzone are the last ones standing in the smallest wee hours!

BEST BIT OF THE DAY

Bryan 'Life and Richard Blackwood trying to bribe Sam's 'tickle brother into saying which one of them is his hero using money, watches, coats etc. He diplomatically said they both were.

ACCESS
ALL AREASLadies and gentlemen,
the new WestlifeHow's the food
Christian?
"Er, a1"Samantha sports a
tasteful red mumbaThat wooden
thing Joseph
Reel's holding
is a guitarBillie looks
pleased
with herselfBen, stop
stair-ingAddis Black
Widow - ABW
for shortGirl Thing spot
their folks at
the backWhat has 68 legs
and sings?

THURSDAY

Watch out Glasgow -
we're ready to party!

It's a night off for the tour, so we all celebrate with a party at Glasgow's Privilege Club. Sonique starts it off by performing three tracks. "I can't believe the whole of *Smash Hits* turned out to see me!" she squealed. "Now where's the bar?"

Mark a1 is at the bar with a glass of champagne in one hand and a glass of Coke in the other. "I don't really drink," he whispers, "but if I hold a glass it looks like I am and I won't get nagged by everyone!"

Ben a1's in a top mood. "We're having such a good time, I've been up 'til about 5am every morning!" he says. The dirty stopout!

The evening draws to a close at about 5am.

FRIDAY

Point Break's kilts, perry antics and panic in Glasgow...

6.30pm

There's some bad behaviour going on - a gaggle of perving pop stars are following SUPERSISTER around. Meanwhile, Liz Kitten barges into the lads' dressing room by mistake. "Oh my gosh, I'm so embarrassed - I just saw all the boys in their pants!" she squeals. She and Rachel Boom! compare frontage and Ollie Point Break offers to judge the contest.

7.30pm

The show begins, but there's no sign of Westlife yet.

8.30pm

Point Break steal the show appearing on stage in kilts! "Our fans asked us to do it," explains Brett. Every time they spin around the audience get a cheeky flash of their undies. "We wanted to go on without underwear!" confessed Dec. "But we couldn't - there were some young kids in the audience!"

9pm

Westlife still haven't arrived - turns out their plane's delayed on their way from Germany. Atomic Kitten sing an extra song and a1 do a couple more.

10.15pm

It's getting late and Westlife still aren't here! Atomic Kitten take to the stage and announce that Westlife aren't coming... They're only joking!

10.30pm

Westlife arrive at last. They perform five songs before jumping straight on another plane to London.

1am

Things get perry as Paul a1 starts his 'body art'. Ollie PB, Ben a1, Liz Kitten and Johnny Boom! all carry on the trend by signing bodies, some of them in permanent ink! Er, the *Smash Hits* team took loads of pics and then lost our fun camera. If you picked it up, can we have a copy of your pics?

THE BEST BIT

There was time to kill while we waited for Westlife to arrive, so the Kitten stepped in. "We just ran on stage and started talking rubbish," laughs Tash. "We didn't have a clue what to do!" The gals did a great job and when Westlife arrived at 10.30pm the crowd were well and truly whipped into a frenzy.



Before...

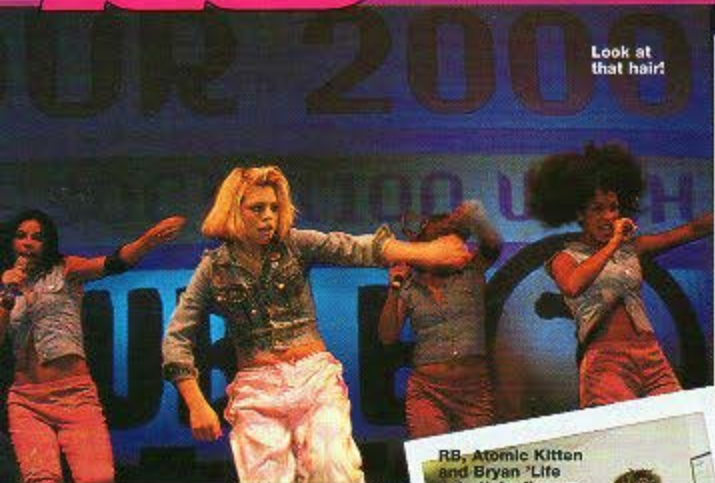
Girl Thing unveil their
newest member

...Point Breaks

Smash! TOUR 2000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH TROUBLE T

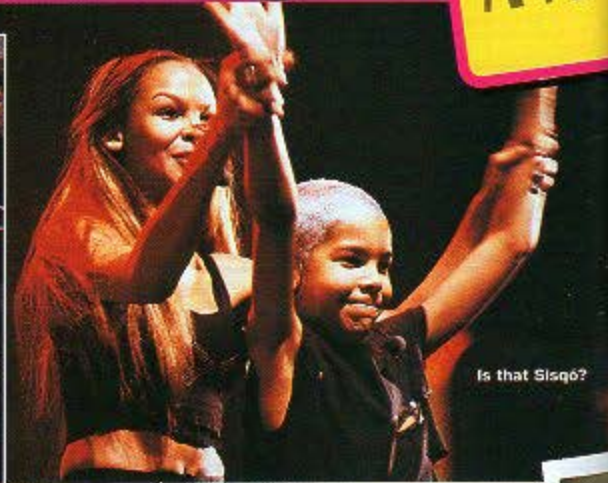
Smash! TOUR 2000
hits
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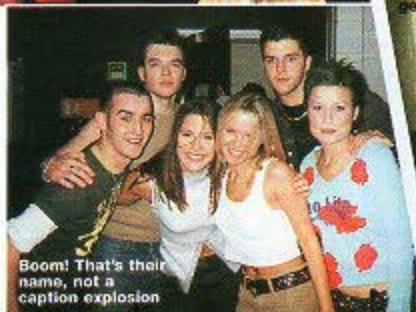
Look at that hair!



Olle Point Break wondered why he was in the footy changing rooms



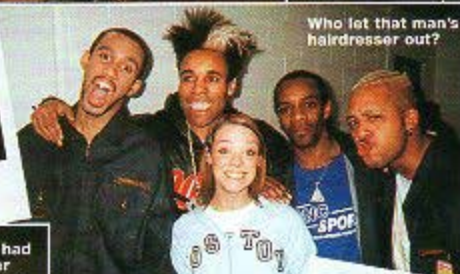
Is that Sisqó?



Boom! That's their name, not a caption explosion



RB, Atomic Kitten and Bryan 'Life' get sticky fingers



Who let that man's hairdresser out?

Christian a1 and his amazing standing still scooter trick



Michelle had pulled her tights up too far again

The face crash left Nicky Westlife and his fan dazed but OK



B-Factor and Point Break do Auld Lang Syne



Mumba Jnr out-bandas Richard Blackwood



"Ooh!" Cheyne Madison Avenue realises she's come out in her undies



King Dane's food tasters were also quite good singers

SATURDAY

Manchester: two shows, three breakdancers and four pairs of pants...

1pm

Checking into the hotel, we find that Posh and Becks are staying there too.

2pm

SH is just getting settled in our hotel when there's a knock at the door. It's Mark a1, who wants to see the latest issue with the boys dressed as the X-Men. "I think they're the best pictures of us I've ever seen," he says. "Along with the Beatles ones you guys did last year. I've got them as the screensaver on my computer y'know!"

2.30pm

Two shows today. Atomic Kitten sneak in behind Point Break and become

their unofficial dancers. It's all-out war when it's the Kittens' turn - Point Break interrupt their set by pretending to ride horses across the stage.

8pm

Anika Girl Thing's trousers keep falling down on stage. Michelle's family are in the house, including her proud dad in a pink wig and Girl Thing T-shirt.

9pm

Ritchie Five arrives to see Billie and even gets roped into introducing her. Westlife aren't due to perform tonight, but Bryan turns up to do a bit of presenting.

10pm

a1 are showered with pants galore and Paul was hit by a barrage of flying pigs, which he asked us to look after - they're still in our office so pop in next time you're passing. Paul. Oris and

Richard Blackwood are doing the *Same Old Brand New* You dance at the side of the stage.

1am

Off to Life Bar. Richard Blackwood, Keith and Shane, Bryan Westlife, Kerry and Tash Kitten, B-Factor, Point Break, Ben, Christian and Mark a1 and Bornfunk MCs start the dancing. Ben and Christian a1 spend all night on the dancefloor thrilling the laydeez. "I can't help it, I like girls!" shrugs Christian.

3am

How did we get home from the club? In a pop star Limo? No, we walked in a huge posse, until Ben, Mark, Dec and SH got separated and lost in the middle of Manchester. "I can't believe Ben's walking!" giggles Mark, "he doesn't walk anywhere!" And sure enough, Ben

calls their tour manager to come and pick us up.

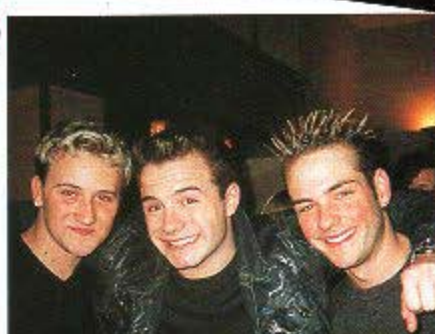
3.30am

Back at the hotel, it's straight into the bar. Dec Point Break is searching for a piano and the a1 boys head straight to SH's room because Mark has told them all about our X-Men photos. After jumping up and down on our bed they disappear to their own. "I'm so glad we don't share anymore," confesses Ben. "We like to have our own space now." Ben finds out he's left his mobile phone in our room, so he turns up to collect it at 5.30am.

THE BEST BIT

The breakdance challenge. Bryan Westlife, Richard Blackwood and Keith Boyzone take to the stage in the club and battle it out through the medium of back-spinning and head-spinning (well, almost).

ACCESS ALL AREAS



The grinning contest started with a dead heat...



...and the second round was also tight



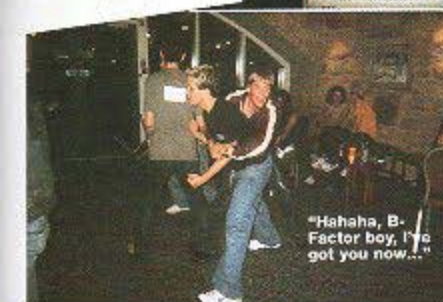
Dec with a spot of Trouble



Was the song real to Reel?



'Ere Dec, hold these for us, cheers!



"Hahaha, B-Factor boy, I've got you now..."



"...Oops!"



Shane cracked up, even though someone had spilled varnish down his jacket



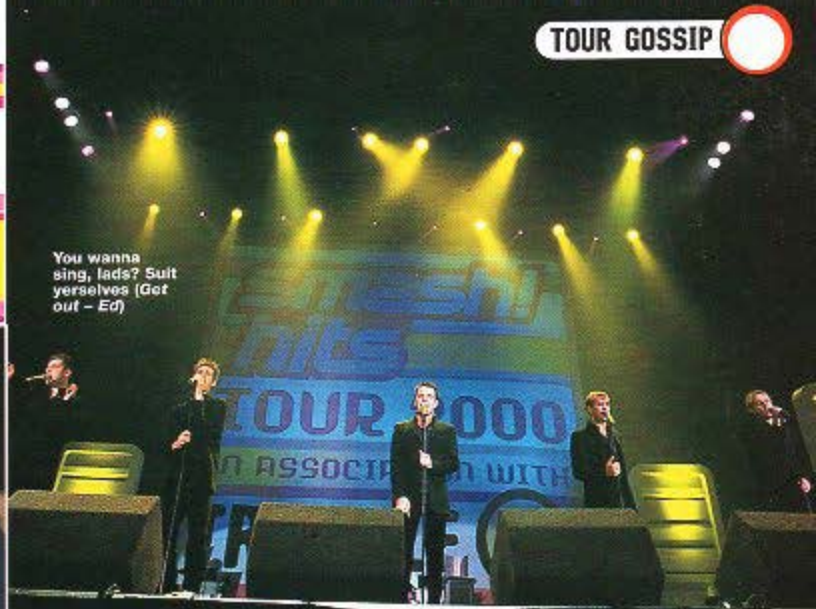
A half-hearted Saturday Night Fever, late on, from Kian



Is that Screech from Saved By The Bell?



SHOUTING!!!



You wanna sing, lads? Suit yourselves (Get out - Ed)

SUNDAY

Karaoke, Kittens and Kian's karate chops in Sheffield

4pm

At yesterday's SH photoshoot, a dentist was called 'cos Liz's mouth was swollen. "It's completely numb," she mumbles backstage. Today is the quietest we've ever seen a Kitten.

4.30pm

Dane's here, scooting about with the SHTV crew for the best gossip. "Any excuse for a party," sniggers Dane. Christian a1, Bryan "Life and Richard Blackwood are also tearing about on Trouble's scooters.

4.50pm

Just before showtime, Bryan, Kian and Nicky decide it's time for a game of footy and grab Point Break and the Boom! boys for a kickabout.

5pm

Richard Blackwood films the Bomfunk MCs doing backflips on his camera, then lingers a bit longer on SUPERSISTER. Hmm...

5.30pm

Ben a1 overheard fibbing to a radio interviewer he went to bed at 7.30pm. 7.30am more like...

6pm

Atomic Kitten and Point Break make rules for sabotaging each other's sets - no stage-wetting and no touching.

6.30pm

Christian a1 'fesses he has a tour crush on Rachael Boom! - "Promise you won't tell her?" Don't worry, Chris, your secret's safe with us... Doh!

7pm

Westlife nip in for a quick photoshoot before they hit the stage. Bryan poses with baby Harry (he's just 'borrowed' it) and gets all broody, blowing raspberries on his stomach.

7.30pm

a1 slip Ready Or Not into their set, specifically at the SH girls' request.

7.45pm

Nikki GT and Kerry Kitten jostle to the front of the backstage area to see the 'Life do their thang.

8pm

After Westlife, the Baha Men start the grand finale singing *Who Let The Dogs Out?* They're joined on stage by Westlife, Point Break, the Kittens, Nikki GT, SUPERSISTER, Reel, B-Factor and loads, loads more...

THE PARTY!

10pm

Anika GT knocks on SH's door and tells us we're taking too long getting ready, she wants to party! Nikki brings her mum and nieces to the party, but they can't stay up too late.

10.30pm

Dane is asked about the upcoming karaoke. "No mate, there's no way I'm singing..."

11pm

...Dane and Bryan start the karaoke with a cheeky version of Five's *If Ya Gettin' Down*. Then, Mr Bowers sings the second song of the night, Another Level's *From The Heart* and Bryan gets all mushy. "I want Dane to sing this at mine and Kerry's wedding," he tells us (though he later denies there are wedding bells coming soon). Then since you can't keep pop stars off the mic, SUPERSISTER do *Thong Song*. Point Break sing the Jovi's classic *You Give Love A Bad Name* (and Dec sings Lenny Crabsticks' *Fly Away*) and Emmie, B-Factor and Tash & Kerry Kitten join in. "We sing every day, can we have a day off?" pleaded Shane 'Life, but Kian joined the SH team for *American Pie*. "You needed the help," the scamp claimed.

Later...

Kian and Nicky are found in room wrestling their security guards Francis and Paul - and knock 'em down three times! "We need new security," joked Kian to a bemused Mark.

Much later...

Point Break don't go to bed, a1 text us to say have a drink for them and we talk the DJ into playing until 7am!

THE BEST BIT

The whole thing - roll on next year!

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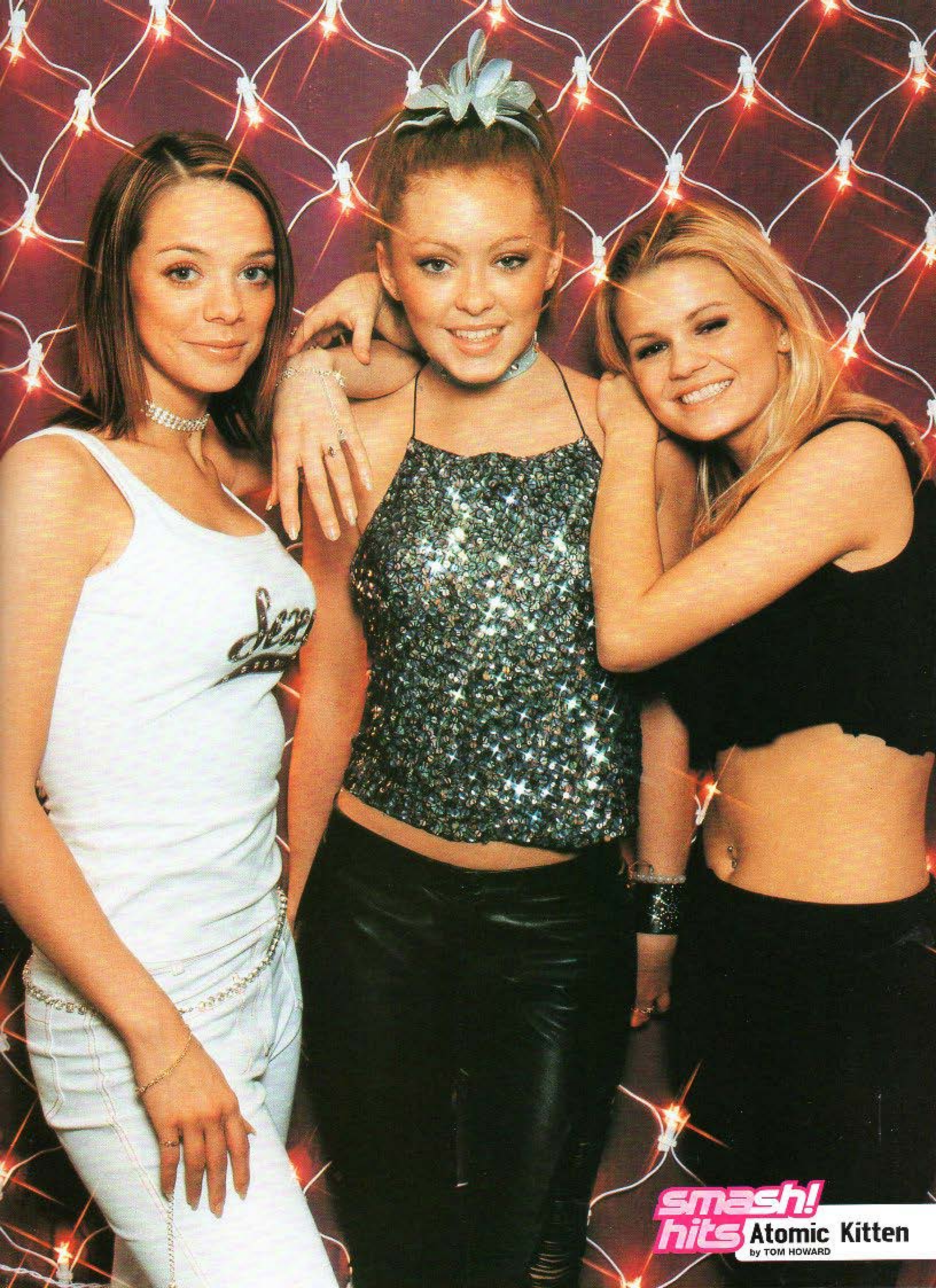
Now we also have ring tones for Motorola phones! To find out how to order them, visit www.jippii.co.uk

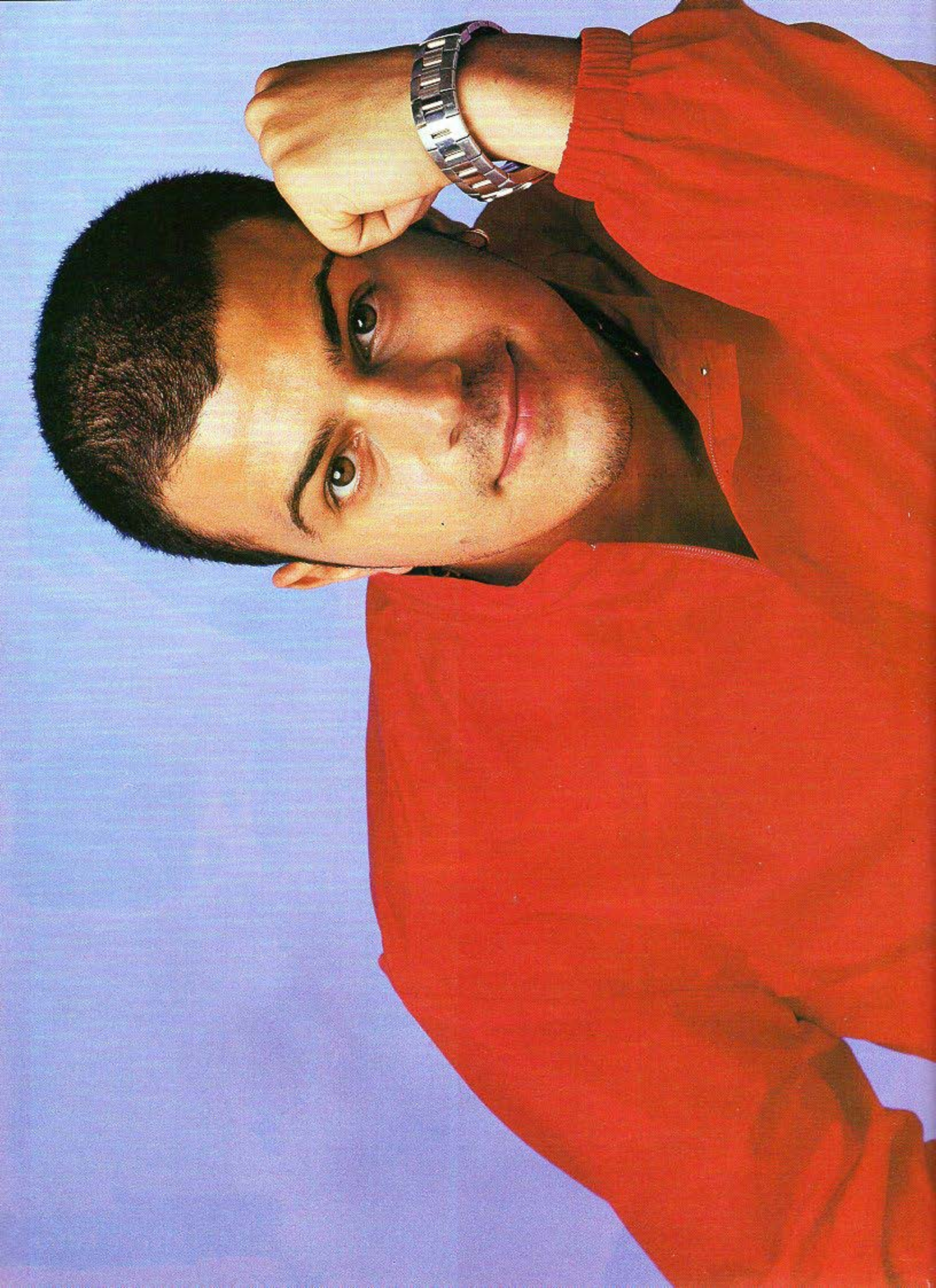
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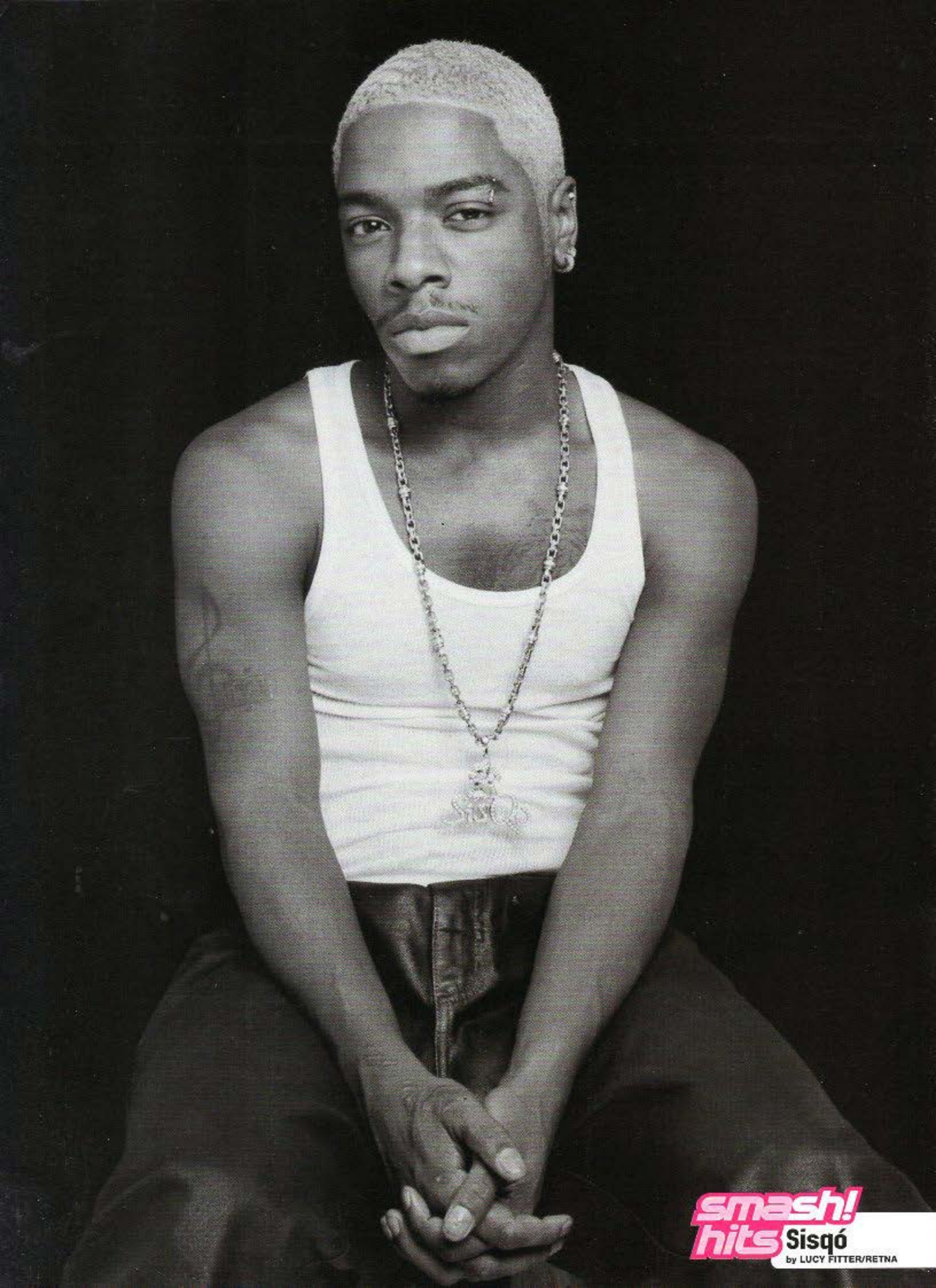








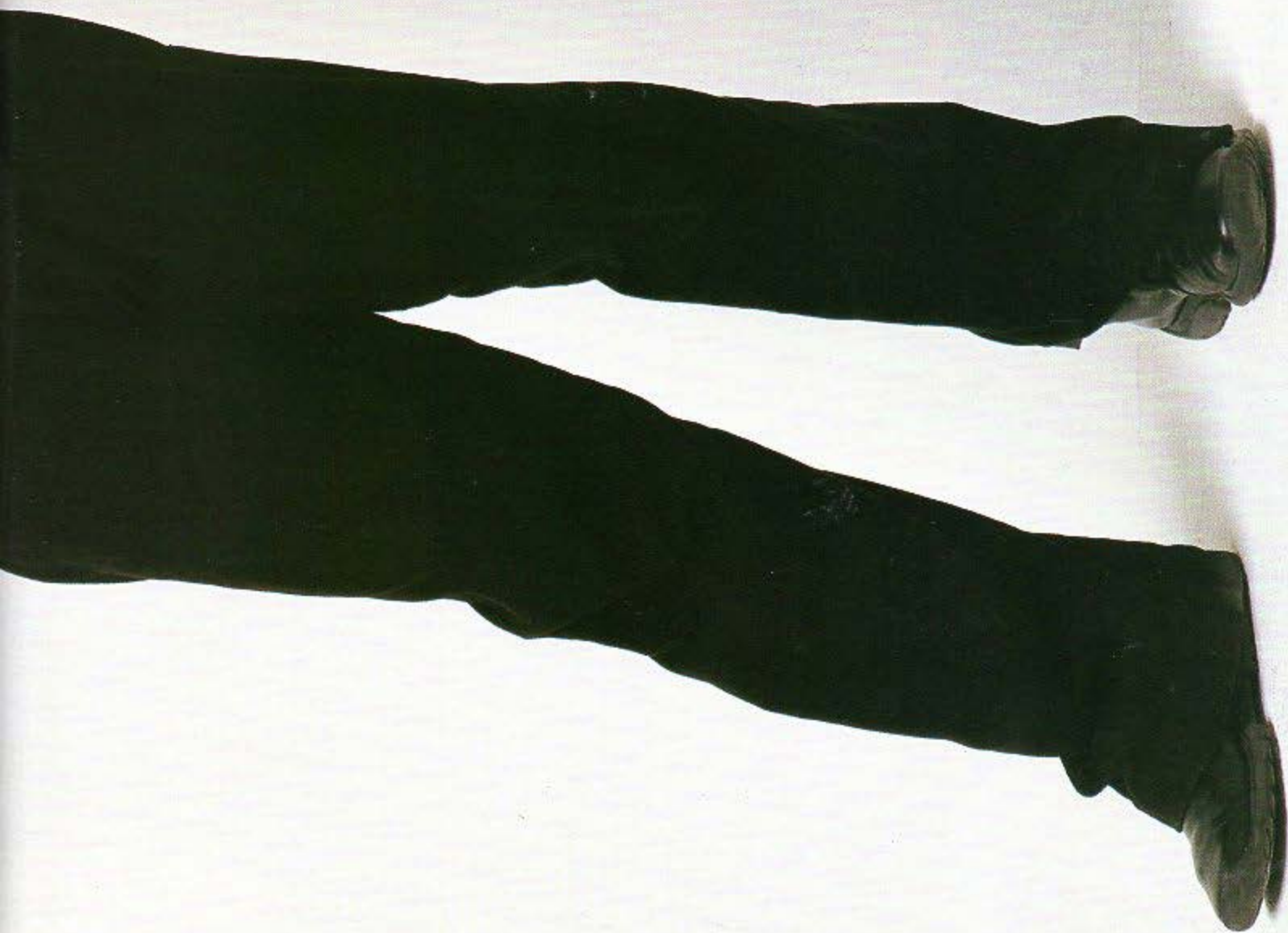
smashi!
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by TOM HOWARD



smash!
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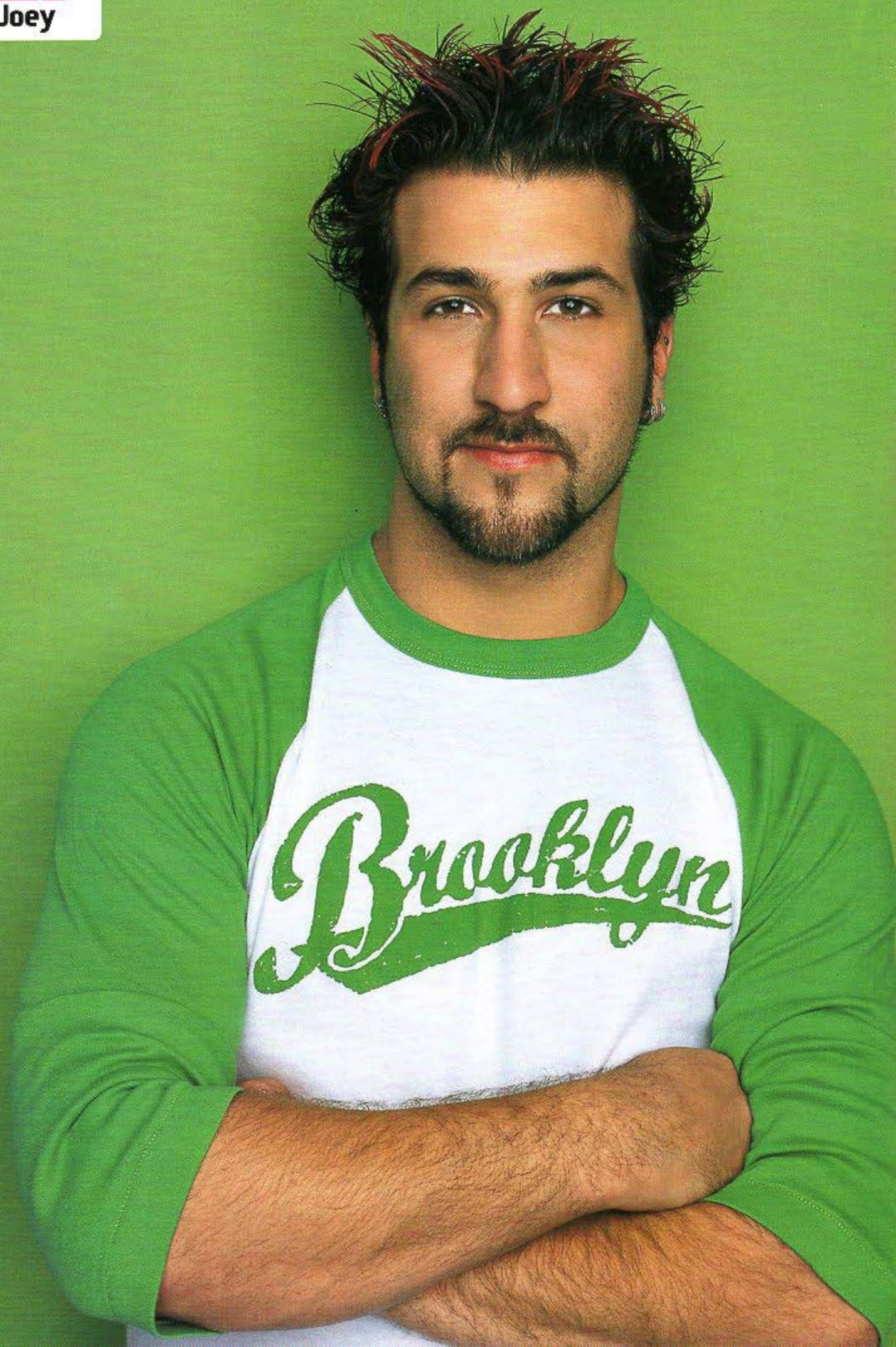
Sisqó

by LUCY FITTER/RETNA









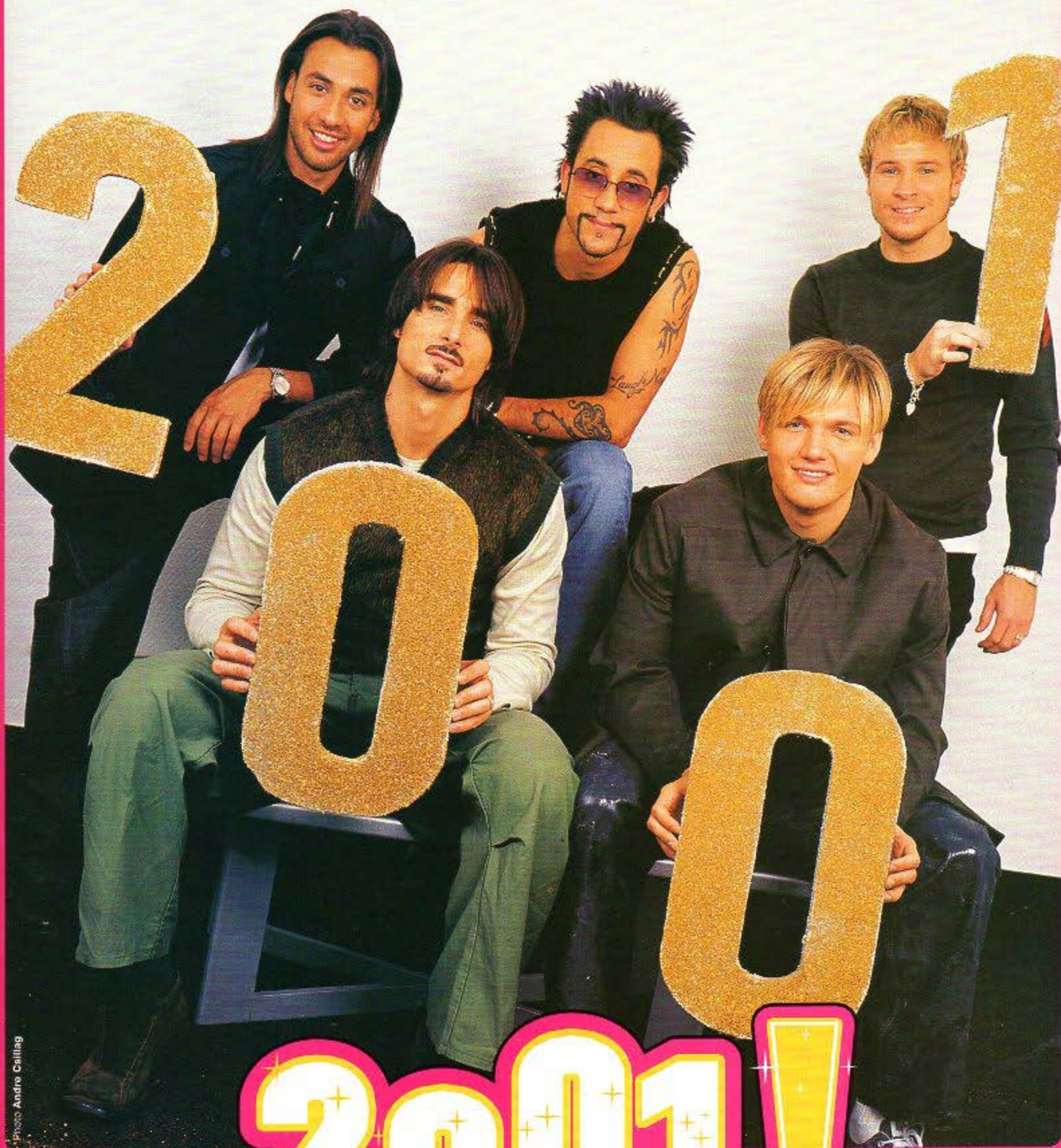


Photo: Andre Cellag

2001!

BSB, Westlife, Steps, S Club and Ronan tell us what they're up to this year, while we meet the hottest new acts on Planet Pop

smash!
hits

COVER FEATURE

STEP INTO THE FUTURE

.....
"I CAN'T BELIEVE WE
DIDN'T WIN MOST
SLAGGED OFF GROUP"
- CLAIRE

Words John Hindmarch
Photos David Venni/Getty One Stone

2001. BLIMEY. ONLY A YEAR AGO WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM AND IT'S A YEAR OLD ALREADY. SO HOW'S IT BEEN GOING FOR STEPS?



"First things first," says Lisa, as Steps troop into the hotel room for their first interview of the new year. "My stomach is my priority at the moment," she continues, grabbing a room service menu and ordering fish fingers, chips and beans (off the children's menu, naturally).

Once Lisa's joined her bandmates, it's time to chat. So, was 2000 a good year for Steps? "I think it was. We had another No1, two huge, sold-out arena tours, and a third album out."

"And we won our Brit Award last year as well," adds Faye.

"Yeah, everything we could do, we did last year. Name another band that's done all that in one year." Fair point Lee.

Faye's not completely happy though. "A few more *Smash Hits* Awards would have been a nice way to end the year..."

"I can't believe we didn't win Most Slagged Off Group award!" smirks Claire. Is that a bit of bitterness bubbling under the surface?

"It's just one of those things," explains Faye. "We've been slagged off from the very beginning." But despite a bit of bad feeling on Planet Pop, Faye's happy with how the millennium began. "I think 2000's been really good for us. Sometimes you think that you've peaked and the only way is down, but actually Steps' popularity has stayed the same, if not grown. And we all started writing for Steps for the first time, which has been fantastic, so we did achieve some goals this year."

BUZZ OFF

But if Steps had had their way, the album that showcased their writing skills wouldn't even have seen the light of day in 2000,

as Claire explains.

"We didn't even decide to do a third album until..."

("February," helps Faye) That's right, 'cos we were like, 'Yeah, we'll release it now'."

March thought we'd have two months to write, chill out, y'know, do it properly like other bands do. And then some bright spark comes along and says, 'I think we should release it at Christmas, get

the Christmas market.' We were like 'OK.' So Steps didn't get their two months off, but they did get their third album, *Buzz*, out in November. And a Steptastic album it was too.

"We didn't move completely away from the Steps sound. ('It's not as different as I thought it would be,' interrupts Lee.) I think there are some perfect Steps tunes on *Buzz*, but I think there's a bit of us in there as well - we've got some personal things on the album, which is nice 'cos it means Steps belongs to us a bit more now."

"Yeah," says Lee, nodding his head, "now I actually know what I'm singing about - for the first two albums I didn't have a clue what was going on. I was just singing words that someone told me to say."

"You know, 'Love, love lost,' y'know, put a dance to it - a-ra-ra. But now we actually know what our songs mean." So you never knew what 5, 6, 7, 8 was all about? Cripes!

2001: A STEPS ODYSSEY

Anyway, enough about the past. What's up with Steps' future? Has some bright spark told them to get another album out for Christmas? Are they

going to be doing three arena tours this year?

"There may be another album this year," explains Claire, "but I don't think it will be a studio album, it may be a compilation. Kind of like a greatest hits..."

Faye: Are we allowed to say that?

Claire: I don't see why not! We've had an album out for the past three years, and if we do a compilation this year it'll be 'cos we'd only have to go and record a couple of new songs.

OK, no 'new' album, what about another tour or three?

Claire: I think we've exhausted our tour schedule, we've done too much. Well, not too much, but we've given everyone lots and lots of opportunity to come and see us this year, so if anything it might be towards the end of the year, not in the summer.

Lee: (Ominously) We might not be here in the summer...

SH: Eh??!!?

Lee: We might be in Japan or America or somewhere (spotting worried look on SH's face) - I don't mean not in Steps! We might be travelling, 'cos this year we've spent a lot of time in the UK, and I think next year might be a big international year.

Are Steps going to try to 'break' America?

Claire: We could do - if the Vengaboys can have a No1 over there, I'm sure we can! It would be great to break America, but if we don't it's not the end of the world and we're not all going to slit our wrists.

ABS IN STEPS?

The band do have some other ambitions for 2001. Like Lee wants to "get married and have lots of babies." We think he's joking. We think.

.....
"MY LOVE LIFE IS BOOM!-TASTIC" - LISA

.....
"I WANT TO LEARN WELSH SO I CAN DO A BIT OF PRESENTING ON WELSH KIDS' TV" - H

Apart from that...

Lee: I'd like to make a movie.
Faye: Make a movie next year? You've got to plan ahead for that, babe.

Lee: No, I mean Steps should make a movie, playing characters, not ourselves. It should be a real blockbuster - *Mission: Impossible*-type thing.

Claire: I'd have to play the divvy blonde!
Lee: You could be the lab girl...

Claire: And I could whip me glasses off and shake out my hair... ooh, I'd like that. I can look into a microscope with feeling, and I can do a concerned face (Claire does indeed pull a very concerned face). Oh God, I felt like Joey from *Friends* there!

Anything else?

Lee: A third number one would be nice, get our quota in for the year!

There are some personal ambitions for this year as well. Lee wants to buy a house ("I must have looked at every house in West London last year"), Lisa wants to meet Bon Jovi, Claire wants to meet Madonna, and H, well, H wants "Abs! (he means the muscles) I'm going to do sit-ups every day!" Looks of stunned disbelief appear on his bandmates' faces. "I am! And I'm going to learn Welsh..."

"That'll come in real handy!" laughs Claire sarcastically.

"No, I want to learn Welsh so I can do a bit of presenting on Welsh kids' TV."

"He already knows all the swear words," snarks Lee. Well that'll come in useful on kids' telly...

CLAIRE'S
OPENING
A CHIPPY...

And with the millennium well underway, what do Steps think about the future? Well H is disappointed. "I thought that by now everything would be like *The Jetsons*, but it's not, it's all just a bit scummier than it used to be!"

"I'm getting a chip implanted in my ear," spooks Claire suddenly. "You're doing that?" asks Lisa. "I don't think that's right." "You're gonna get a chip shop?" Asks H, not quite with it.

"No," explains Faye, "you can get a chip implanted in your ear that works like a mobile phone."

"I got two cats from the home where I got my dog," continues H, catching up with the conversation, "and they've got chips in their necks in case they get lost. It works like a barcode, so you always know where they're from."

Steps aren't quite so fond of some other new inventions, however. "I think that MP3 stuff is crap," says Claire, and Faye agrees. "I'm not feeling it either. We spend so much money, time and effort creating our music, and for people just to get it for free... It could destroy the music industry. It's not cool to kill off a band, 'cos that's what it's going to do. No-one's going to be able to afford to start a band."

And then there are the inventions that should have been here ages ago but haven't materialised. "Flatscreen TVs, they've taken a while to come through. You see these inventions appear, then nothing actually happens. Like cars, you'd have thought they'd be better by now, but no, they're still out there belching fumes."

"I've got a few things we need to invent soon," starts Lisa. "Comfy seats in cinemas. Wouldn't it be nice to have sofas instead of single seats so you could sit with all your mates?"

"And more research into illnesses and stuff," adds Faye. "I mean, you'd have thought there'd be an AIDS jab by now."

"It's not quite so important..." continues Lisa. "but I think there should be a device for putting suntan lotion on your back..."

H, the only member of Steps actually allergic to sunlight, perks up. "What about a tanning pill?" He asks.

Lisa shakes her head. "They've already done that and it makes you look like a carrot." At least that explains Dale Winton...

"FOR THE FIRST
TWO ALBUMS
I DIDN'T HAVE
A CLUE WHAT
I WAS SINGING
ABOUT" - LEE



STEPS IN LOVE...?

FAYE: My love life is lovely, lovely, lovely and I'm very happy. And I'd like to say that all those rumours about me and my boyfriend Jasper getting engaged - well, they're not rumours. We haven't announced it 'cos we didn't want to, it's our news, not everyone else's, and it's not about Steps, it's about me and my boyfriend.

H: I'm still available and open to offers! 2000 was OK, but there's nothing ongoing. I've just bought a house - we're all settling down a bit - and it would be nice to share my success with someone. Would I like to share my house with someone? Not just my house! I've just had a new bed delivered, after all...

LISA: My love life is Boom!-tastic (Lisa's going out with Johnny from new band Boom!, if you didn't know). How long's it been going? Not long enough! ("Ahhhh" - the rest of Steps) No, it'll be two years in a couple of months. He was one of our dancers, and we met at his audition - he walked in and I was like, "He's got the job!" It's very nice and thanks to all the fans, both ours and Boom!'s, for being supportive, and I hope it stays that way. That's all I want to say really, I don't want to be all Posh and Becks about it!

CLAIRE: (Smiling) My love life has improved steadily over the last year, and I'm hoping it's going to carry on this year! I'm not single, and I'm perfectly happy at the moment, thank you very much!

LEE: Well, I had a girlfriend in 2000, and that finished, and right now I'm just happy being me and concentrating on work and things I wanna do and just get what I wanna get out of life. When I'm in a relationship I'm 100% in it, and I just give the girl a lot of my time, and it's difficult to do that and Steps - I think that's why it ended last year to be honest. So I can't commit too far ahead, I can't see the future, so if the girl's up for having a good time and living for the day, then cool, if I'm in a relationship, that's it, but when I'm not... (H: "He's on heat!") I am not on heat! I'm just a red-blooded male. If I see a nice looking girl, there's nothing wrong with letting her know!

"THE RUMOURS
ABOUT ME BEING
ENGAGED...
THEY'RE NOT
RUMOURS" -
FAYE

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2001

My New Year's Resolution...



**BILLIE
PIPER**

Billie loves being the life of the party, but right now she just wants to start taking her vitamins!



Let me set you straight before I even start – I am hopeless at New Year's resolutions. I love making them but I'm even better at breaking them. If I could make any resolution for 2001 it would probably be to start taking my vitamins 'cos it's something I never do. I'd start drinking a lot more water and just start taking care of myself again. Basically I've had a really full-on year and I need to get into better health and be well-behaved. It's boring really. Usually my resolutions last for the first three weeks and then I'm completely over it, but I think it would be really good for my lifestyle next year. It would keep me a lot more vibrant instead of flaking out all the time. Not that I did much flaking on tour (laughs). Sometimes when I'm going out a lot and then working really hard I just get run down. I find it hard to find the time and to keep it all in balance. So that's it, *Smash Hits*, when you see me in the New Year you have to make sure I'm taking my vitamins. Promise? Good.

HOW DO YOU



"Hopefully I won't get married for a few years. I'm enjoying myself too much" – **Mark**

YOU TOP THAT?!?

You know about **Westlife's** 2000. A few more No.1s, a squillion front covers and those six **SH** awards. So what's next?

Words: John McKie
Photo: Tom Howard

A SELL-OUT WORLD TOUR

Kian: We're not going to tell you too much about it! We have a lot of exciting things happening. The set is really amazing and cool. Everybody is going to expect us to come out and sing a few nice little songs and say goodbye and walk off. It's not going to be like that. It will be much longer than normal.

Shane: It's going to be different from what people are expecting, 40% uptempo, 60% ballads. People are expecting nearly all ballads but it's not going to be like that. We are going to have a more upbeat show and enjoy it. We've put a lot of money into it and it's going to be amazing.

Mark: We are touring for the whole year, so we need to keep our voices on good form. Lots of honey. No milk, 'cos dairy products are bad for your voice.

Nicky: We are really looking forward to the world tour, it's going to be absolutely amazing. If the pace of Westlife can carry on the way it's going it'll be great. We've had an amazing two years, ever since the *Smash Hits* Tour in 1998 when we won Best New Tour Act. Can't forget that! The tour is a big thing for us at the beginning of the year and I hope the album will keep selling and I might get my own *Smash Hits* cover! (We'll see - Ed)

Bryan: It'll be good and loads of our friends will be there.

Mark: We're just going to go on every night and leave everyone going home every night saying, "That was great." It's going to be different and bit uptempo.

Kian: There are no solo bits, we are doing it all as a band. It's going to be a unit.

HOLIDAYS

Kian: Well, if there are any gaps in the tour I might go on holiday for a week. I want to start playing the guitar again as well, so I'll bring the guitar on the road.

BREAKING AMERICA

Bryan: One of my ambitions is to tour America.

Kian: We're spending two months promoting over there.

Shane: Yeah, we want to have a real go at making it there.

HOUSES

Shane: I'm not going to have much spare time with Westlife. I'm going to be building or buying a house and I think Nicky is too, aren't you?

Nicky: Yeah, I'm looking to buy a house. It's very expensive, though, and I don't want to live anywhere but Dublin. I don't mind just outside Dublin but I don't want to live too far out. I'm looking to find the right thing.

Bryan: I've just bought a plot of land outside Dublin and want to build a house there.

LOVE

Mark: If the right person comes along that would be great. But hopefully that won't happen for another few years yet - I am enjoying myself too much at the moment.

Bryan: I'm not going to be married or anything like that yet.

Nicky: There are no plans for marriage yet - I'm too busy. Georgina and I are still happy together and having fun, but we have no plans for marriage yet.

Shane & Kian: There's no time!

NO NEW ALBUM (blub!)

Kian: No, not this year. We are going to be recording the new album in January, February and March 2002.

FASHION

Shane: I reckon this year's colour will be silver. I like silver.

Bryan: I think it'll be black and silver together.

Mark: I reckon gold looks good, but maybe that's more of a female thing.

Kian: Black, black and more black. (Grins) Black and white - you can never go wrong.

Shane: No trousers with big flowers on, though.

Nicky: Definitely not Ronan's curtains! (Laughs) I mean trousers, not hair...

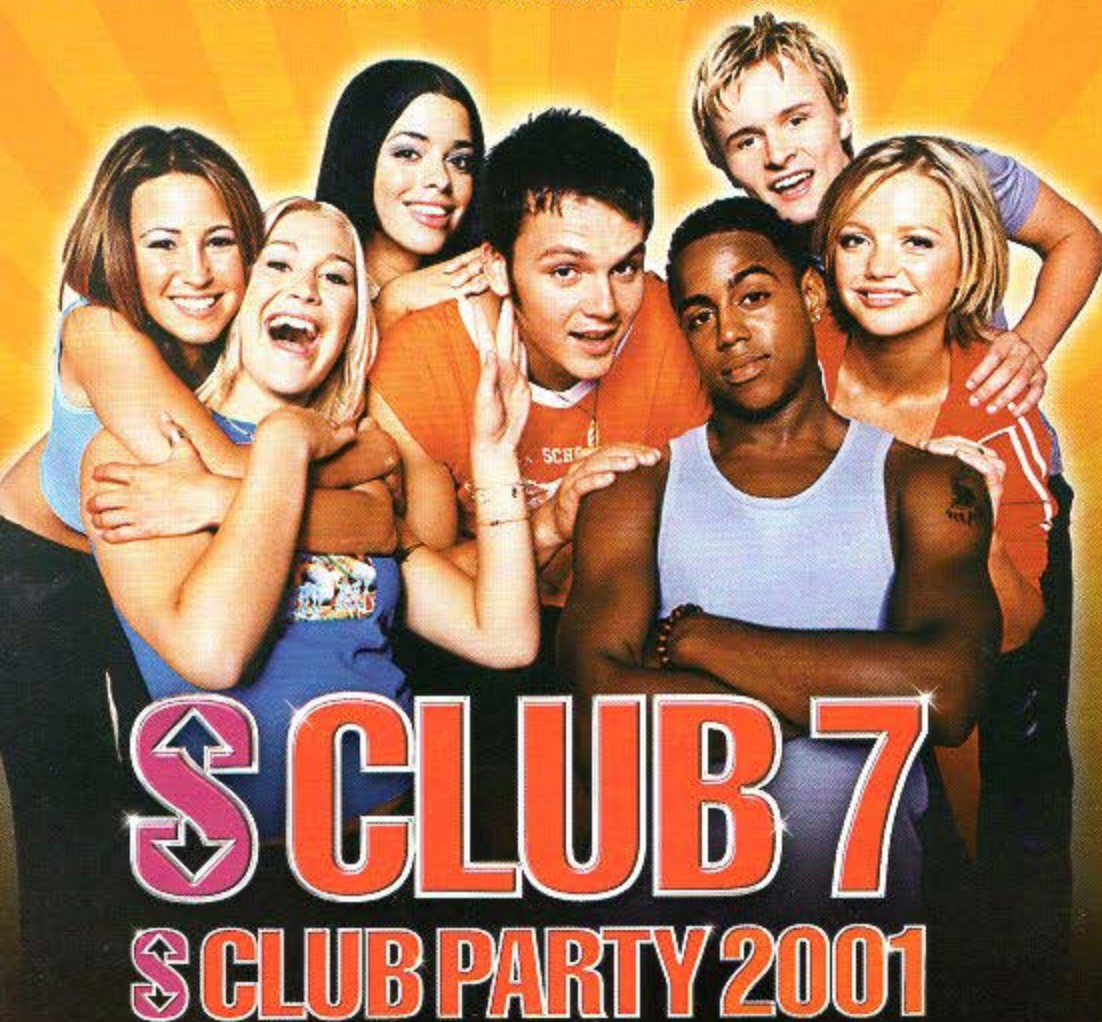
2001
My New Year's Resolution...



SAMANTHA MUMBA

Samantha Mumba is on the *Smash Hits* Tour, munching on a hotdog and dreaming about her New Year's resolution...

To be completely honest, I really never make New Year's resolutions and even when I do I usually break them the very next day. The only thing I really want next year is to be home more often than I am right now. That would be fantastic but it just doesn't happen. To be home for an odd day here or there would be great. I guess the best resolution I could make would be not to go so far away from home. I really miss my little brother Omoro and my mum's cooking (laughs). I've been back and forth to America lately and I'm not really too fond of it. Sure, I love what I'm doing and America is amazing, but it gets a little bit mad. Home is home, y'know? People often say, "What's the best thing about home?" But it's just home, it's not the great people or the great city - it's just home. Americans think there are leprechauns and everything in Ireland. It's all very strange. I guess I'm in a position now where I can set them straight. (And with that Sam finishes her hotdog and takes off for the stage. Tomorrow she'll be back in the States).



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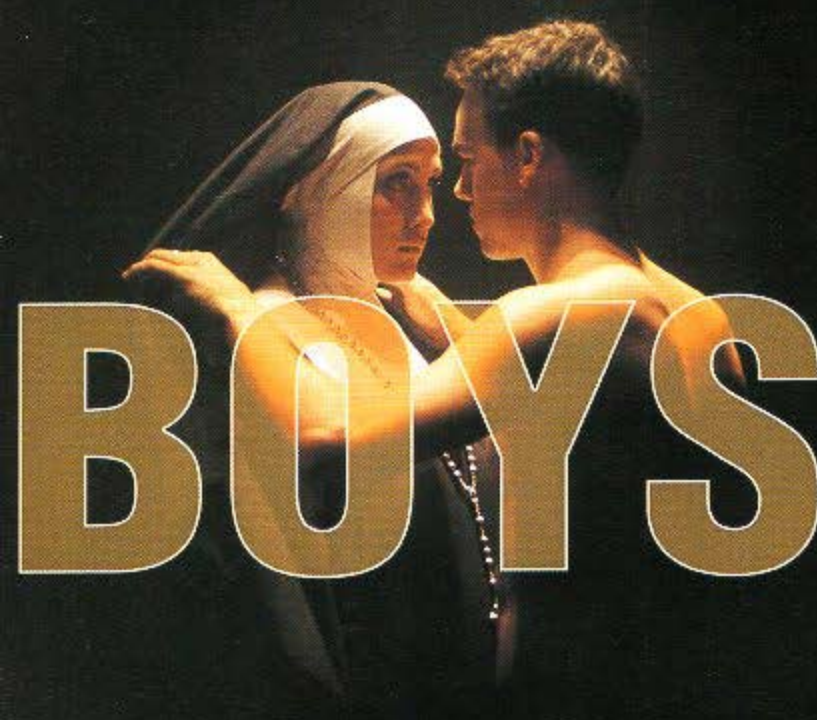
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THE SIX THINGS I HAVE TO DO THIS YEAR



By Ronan Keating

1 Become a dad again

Everyone's in good form. Yvonne's here and she is feeling great and we are really excited about the new baby. We don't care if it's a boy or a girl, the baby just has to be healthy. It's due in February, and we don't know, and don't want to know, whether it's a boy or a girl - in spite of the papers saying we knew. I hope to get a month off work around the time of the birth to spend more time with Yvonne, Jack and the new arrival.

2 Take care of Jack

Jack's at home and we are going straight home after the show to see him. Jack's fave tune is *Rollercoaster* and *Who Let The Dogs Out?*, he loves dancing to that one and whenever it's on, he is running around the house like a little monkey. He is so cute and he also sings *Bob The Builder*, that's the big one in our house at mo.

3 Chill out a bit

My New Year's resolution is to relax a little bit more. I'm a bit wound-up, it's the end of the year and there is a lot happening, I think everyone is a bit wound-up. I've just taken Christmas off and watched TV.

4 Sort out my diary

I'm always thinking six to eight months in advance and it gets a bit hectic but you have to in this business, I've been doing a European tour, doing a bit in Asia and America and shooting the new video, just the usual bits and bobs. I've already planned the UK arena tour in May, which I hope plenty of people will come to, please God.

5 Work in America

I am really excited about that, and I can't wait to get out there. I'm signed to Interscope in the US, which is Eminem's label. I'm going to spend at least a couple of months over there this year.

"Jack loves dancing to *Who Let The Dogs Out?*"

6 Go to America for fun

What I would really like to do if I could (eyes light up) is just go away and travel the world with my family for a while. I would love to tour America with the family and go down the west coast. It would be great to do it and not have to work in each place and we could just relax and drink some wine. It'd be fun to drive round the States, cruising around.

YEAR USELESS!

The S Club boys aren't the best at keeping New Year's resolutions...

BRADLEY: I'm pretty bad at keeping New Year's resolutions. I promise myself that I'll sort out my time keeping and be more punctual but I'm still always late for everything. I'm gonna try again this year too.

JON: Every year I always say that I'm going to stop biting my nails and every year I last a day before it comes it comes to January 2 and I'm like this... (Stuffs as many fingers in his mouth as he can.)

PAUL: I'm terrible at making rules for myself and not sticking to them. Every single year I say I can't be so messy. I must be more organised. And I'm still the messiest, least organized person that I know!



2001 My New Year's Resolution...



CHRISTIAN a1

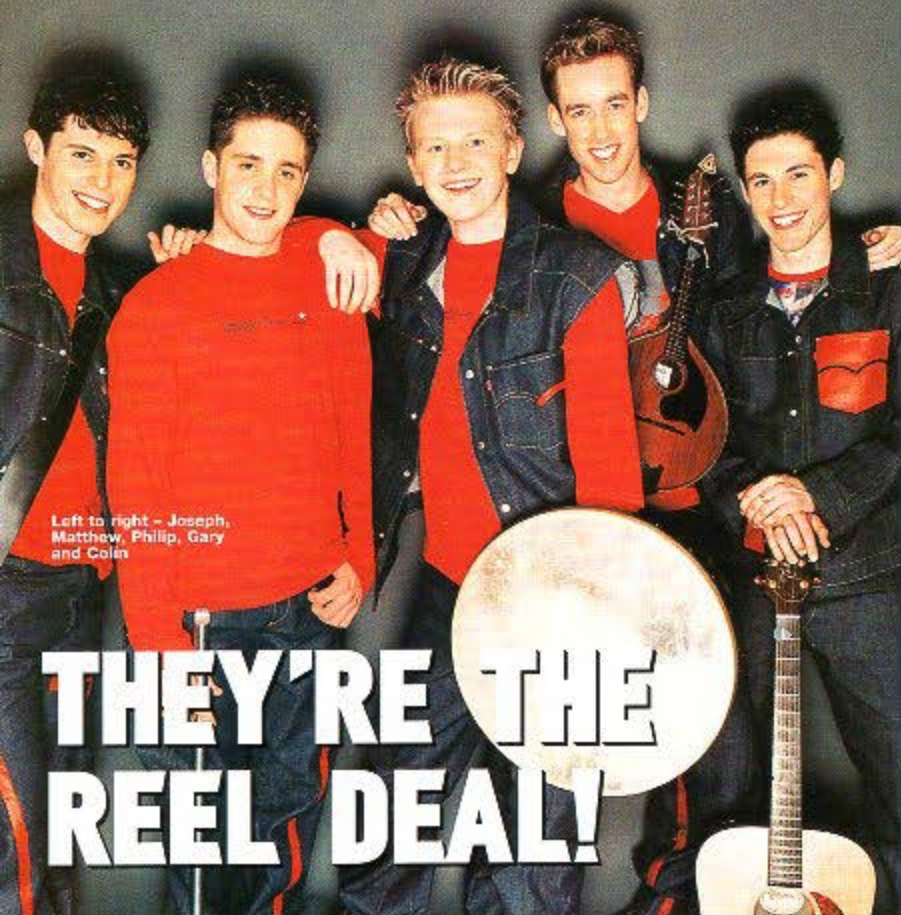
My New Year's resolution is to do a course in psychology. I never read books so I'm going to buy loads of psychology books so I can learn how to read people's minds. In this business, you meet a lot of people and I'd love to know where they're coming from. I've always been interested in psychology because it helps me write better songs. Actually, I'm lying it's just so I can understand girls better!

2001 My New Year's Resolution...



SEAN FIVE

My New Year's resolution is to start eating healthier. I've got to cut down on the KFC, Burger King, McDonald's and Pizza Hut. We eat a lot of rubbish on the road and I'm determined I'm going to start eating my greens, broccoli, cabbage, all that healthy stuff. I might even hit a salad occasionally. We have a chef on tour with us, so I'm going to have a word to make sure I'm on the pasta, with loads of carbohydrates. I can't face any more Big Macs...



Left to right - Joseph, Matthew, Philip, Gary and Colin

THEY'RE THE REEL DEAL!

They're following in the footsteps of Five and BSB, but this year's **Best New Tour Act** are raring to go...

Meet Reel - the hottest new band to come out of Ireland since, oh, you know. You voted them Best New Tour Act '00 and they're as pleased as dancing leprechauns to pick up their award.

Joseph, Colin, Gary, Philip and Matthew spent a nerve-racking week waiting for the votes to be counted and they were all together when they got the call to say they'd won. "We were just heading to a hotel in Dublin when we heard and we all went, 'Aaaaargh!'" says **Gary**. "It was such a great week on the *Smash Hits* Tour and winning the award just put the cap on it," adds **Joe**.

But they did reveal their nerves just before they went on stage at the Poll Winners' Party. "We did get really scared when it came to it, but when you walk on stage it all turns into a buzz," laughs **Matthew**.

"I remember watching it years ago, thinking, 'Wouldn't it be great to be there?'" says **Philip**.

And now their dream's come true and they're hoping to follow in the footsteps of Boyzone and Westlife, as well as non-Celtic award winners BSB and Five. So do they have a special message for the fans who voted for them? "A big, big thank you," smiles **Philip**. "Watch out for us in the future 'cos we're going to repay you now!"

- **Joseph, 19, guitar**
Favourite film: *Amageddon*
- **Colin (Jo's twin brother), 19, guitar**
Favourite band: Bon Jovi
- **Gary, 21, mandolin and banjo**
Favourite TV programme: *Match Of The Day*
- **Matthew, 20, whistle**
Favourite designer label: Gucci
- **Philip, 20, piano**
Favourite CD: Anything by Divine Comedy

THEY'RE BOOMIN' GREAT!

Boom! are *Falling* into the charts. Here's your essential guide...

SHAKTI never wanted to leave the *SH* Tour. "We've just been touring with Five, who are great, but I wanted to stay with *Smash Hits* 'cos it was so much fun and everyone was really nice."

SHAUN is from Edinburgh, though he lives in London, and he wants "to meet John Lennon more than anyone else". Sadly he's been dead for 20 years. John Lennon, that is.

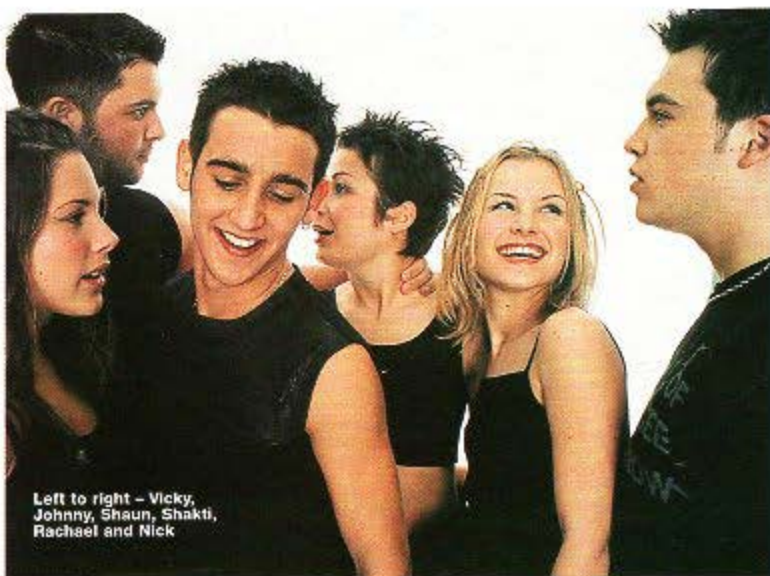
VICKY stuck Boom! stickers on the rude bits of the fully-clothed *SUPERSISTER*, Reel, Ollie & Brett

Point Break and Ben & Paul a1 before cackling, "You've been Boomled!"

JOHNNY, who dates Lisa Steps, says his ideal night would be watching TV - he's a complete soap addict and loves *'Stenders*, *Hollyoaks*, *Brookie* etc.

RACHAEL is the oldest of the band, "even though I look the youngest! Everyone thinks I'm younger than I am which is great." She's 21.

NICK wants to have a website called <http://www.trickynicky.com/> Er, OK...



Left to right - Vicky, Johnny, Shaun, Shakti, Rachael and Nick

Watch out for this lot too!

Blue

Label mates of Billie and Atomic Kitten, this new soul band serenaded the *Smash Hits* girls outside a toilet in Manchester - classy eh?

Kaci

She's 13, she's blondish and she's from America. But she's also a mini-Jennifer Lopez, her new single *Paradise* is out in February and we can't stop spinning it!

SoulDecision

Canadians Dave, Trevor and Ken met at music college nine years ago and are an R'n'B-type pop band.

B-Factor

Three guys from Boston who never went to bed on the *SH* Tour (playwrestling with Westlife, partying with Point Break) and are set to be huuuuuge this year - just remember where you saw 'em first!



Brothers

We've mentioned 'em before, they're related to Lisa Steps and you

know they're gonna be good.

ABW

Alternative, punky and funky, they carved up the stage on *SH* Tour.

Mynxsters

Cheeky gals who like to party

and sing about Hello Kitty the Japanese toy!



Skandal

They supported Five on tour, and blew us

away with their lightsabre dance!

Omaro Mumba

Sam's ten-year-old bro' boogied on stage with her on the *Smash Hits* Tour and we reckon he'll be launching his own solo career shortly.

MEET JONATHAN WILKES - HE'S GOING TO BE FAMOUS

Jonathan Wilkes - Jonny to his mates - could well be the brightest new star of the year. Here's what you need to know...

FIRST EVER INTERVIEW!

He's already a big star in... er, Blackpool

At the time I was 17, 18 and singing Take That and Boyzone hits. That job was like a YTS for being a pop star and doing the clubs was quite a big prestige thing. I'm massive in Blackpool!

He was in a group with Michelle Girl Thing

We were called Jonathan and the Space Girls and we performed in Blackpool. Everyone called her Babs!

He loves *Stars In Their Eyes*

I used to do a Matthew Kelly in Blackpool and say, "Tonight, I'm going to be Ronan, Tom Jones, Cliff Richard, whoever." I can do a great Ronan impression (*Proceeds to sing an uncanny Life is a Rollercoaster*).

He's got every episode of *Friends* on video

For the first three years, I was such a big Chandler fan, but I'm sort of getting to like Joey. He's awesome.

He loves his mum

I'm very close to all my family, mum Eileen, dad Graham and sister Kay and my brother-in-law Jonathan. Can you mention my niece Olivia Grace in *Smash Hits*, please? (No, sorry)

His best mate (and flatmate) is Robbie Williams

He's my best mate in the whole wide world, and I can't deny that fact. We got brought up together (*Jonny is now 22*), and our mums were friends. We're the only two people who can

shout at each other because no-one shouts at Rob. I'm very fortunate my best mate is in the industry I want to be in.

He promises not to get big-headed

I couldn't go back to the lads in Stoke and turn all Charlie big-time on them. Everybody would tell me to get lost.

Anything else?

My first record is out in March and I'm excited, nervous, sort of everything at the same time. I can't wait!

O-Town

The latest singing sensation from the makers of 'N Sync, you might recognise them from *Making The Band* (Easy with the screams - Ed) As Britney, would say "O - my gosh!"

Jelay Ju

When you hear them you won't believe they're a boyband - but they are. R'n'B the quality of Sisqó, garage to rival the True Steppers and ballads to make your knees go trembly. They gave the *SH* crew a private half-hour set - how considerate.

ON THEIR WAY BACK



Mya

She's been in the Top Ten already with *Ghetto Superstar*, but this funkster is back with her new tune *Case Of The Ex* and a freakin' video to match.

Peter Andre

The be-muscled perma-tanned one has just got a new manager and some hot new tracks. The future is orange!



Lee Brennan

911 frontman was keen to join us on tour last year but decided to hold off 'til his new stuff was perfect and it's pretty close.



BB Mak

We've loved 'em for ages but this Scouse guitar pop trio have been hanging out in America scaling the Top Ten there.

Derek Mac

One half of Mero is back with a six-pack. Welcome back, geezer!

Usher

Read the single review, it's all you need to know!

Lee West

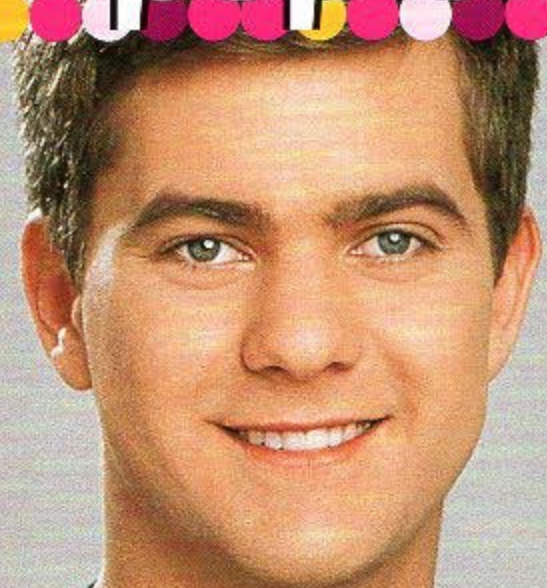
Back with a choon from a new movie.

Dane Bowers

Pop star, presenter, and pop star all over again! Stay tuned to *Smash Hits* (TV, radio AND the mag) for more...

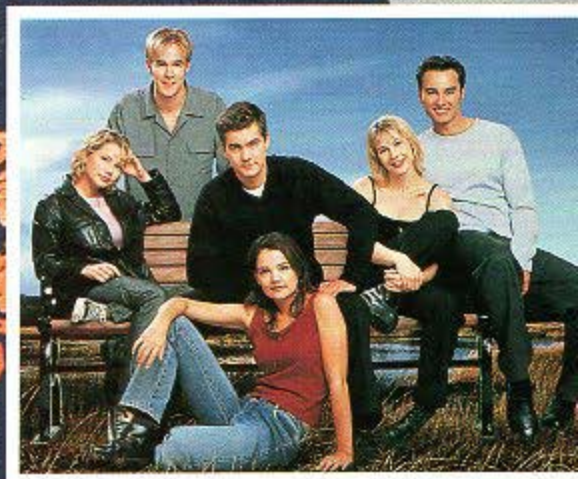
Cool stuff to hear, see and buy NOW!

pop shop



PACEY'S BACK

→ There's a new series of
Dawson's – woohoo!



HOLLYOAKS

Luke and Ben are
on a collision course

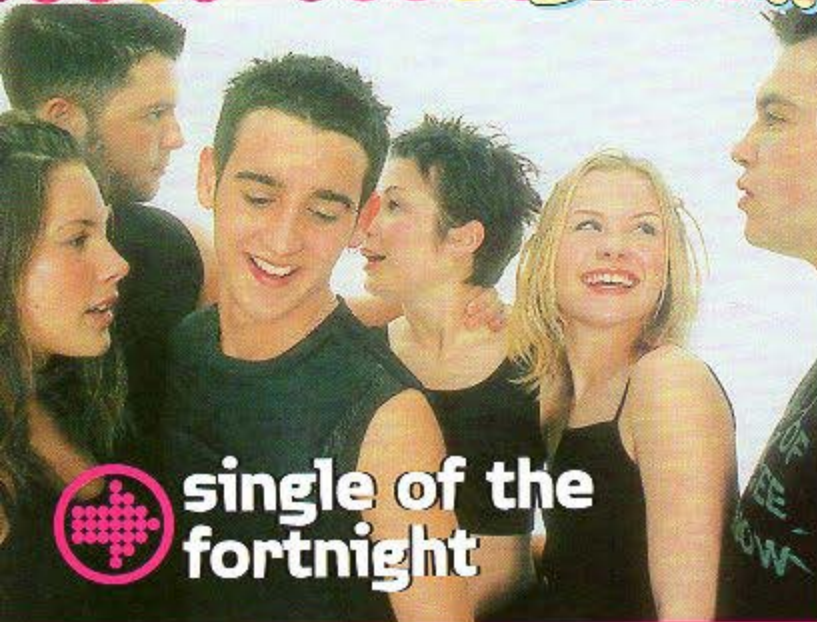
SINGLES

Newies from All Saints
& Jennifer Lopez

MOVIES

Ben Affleck
Bounces back!

singles



single of the fortnight



BOOM! Falling

What's not to like about Boom!? They've got three boys, three girls and rocked the SH tour like a mutha. Johnny had a habit of drinking big amounts of small drinks. Nick is highly amusing and Shaun is Scottish, which has to be a good thing. Oh, and the girls are all mental as anything. *Falling* is their first single and it's v. catchy indeed. Go buy it!



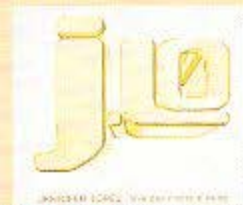
DAVID MORALES feat. JULIET ROBERTS Needin' U II

Remixers beware: two years ago, when it was first released, it would have been Single Of The Fortnight. Now they've twiddled about with it, it only gets a "Yay!" rating. They may live to regret that. They may not. Swings and roundabouts, really.

JENNIFER LOPEZ Love Don't Cost A Thing

This is quality R'n'B. But if

love don't cost a thing, you why don't you chuck your diamond-encrusted, Rolex-wearing, Gucci-clad, Bentley-driving millionaire rapper boyfriend and go out with me instead. Jennifer? Jenn?!



USHER Pop Ya Collar

While Sisqó was still with Dru Hill, and while Craig David was still trying to grow his goatee, Usher was one of the flyest solo R'n'B males on the block. And guess what? He still is. *Pop Ya Collar* is hotter than anything else is in January (with the possible exception of Australia and shepherd's

pie). But why's he been away so long?

FATBOY SLIM feat. MACY GRAY Demons

This gospel-ly dance epic is a bit like Moby and features two artists madder than Mad Jack McMad let out of the asylum for a day. But it is v. pleasant if you like your dance beats a bit quirky.



P!NK You Make Me Sick

The H/its loves P!nk. She kicks ass, her records are wicked, and she calls it as she sees it. This is a top tune and I hope there are motorbikes in the vid.

albums



VARIOUS ARTISTS Motown Mania

You know the words, you know the tunes but you've never heard these versions before! Bradley 7 does a stunning *Lately*. Samantha Mumba shakes it to *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, I'm Yours. Dane Bowers croons *I'll Be There* and many more top popsters join in. Weepy moment of the album is a1's

slushfest version of *Three Times A Lady*, and boogie-fest goes to Westlife (*Are you sure?* - Ed) and *What Becomes Of The Broken Hearted*. Serena Lacey

SUGABABES One Touch

Sugababes crept into the charts up the fire escape of pop last year and, cripes, here they are already with their debut album! Last year's single *Overload* stands out and *Same Old Story*'s a dancey, attitudey booty-shaker of a song. There are loads of laidback, lounging-in-your-room kind of bits so if you like your girl bands laidback and lounging, give this album a listen.

Hannah Verdier



YOU HAVE GOT TO SEE THIS...

Dawson's Creek Season Four

It's been a long summer in Capeside. Dawson's been nursing his broken heart since the moment Joey and Pacey set sail into the sunset. The rest of the gang have rallied around, but nothing can prepare him for the return to school and coming face-to-face with Joey and Pacey!

Coming Up...

- There's someone new sleeping on Pacey's couch, his sister Gretchen who immediately catches Dawson's eye - will she mend his heart?
- Joey's got a new job - although she has to lie to get it. She soon gets caught out but is covered by newcomer Drue - who's set to cause a few scenes later in the season.
- Pacey's in trouble at school again. It's serious - he risks not graduating if he doesn't catch up.
- Could Dawson and Pacey be thrown back together when a hurricane hits Capeside? They will if Joey and Jen have anything to do with it!
- Andie is determined to get into a top college through hard work, while Jack takes the sportsman's approach.

Don't miss Dawson's Creek, Fridays at 6pm on Channel 4, repeated Sundays at midday!



SEMISONIC Chemistry

Dan Semisonic looks like he teaches the title of this, and the guys who gave us *Secret Smile* have hardly rocked the charts recently. But this rockin' American ditty is much more exciting than the title suggests. If you like Supergrass or the Dandy Warhols, you'll like this.



TEXAS Inner Smile

Quick! Someone ask Sharleen Spillane & Co what an inner smile is. I need to ask my dentist, who'd probably play something like this in the waiting room to make the ensuing torture not so bad. (The teeth bit, that is. Not the record)

WESTLIFE What Makes A Man/My Girl

What would happen if Shane Westlife married Cheyenne Coates? He'd be called Shane Coates! Except he wouldn't. Ahem. Sorry we didn't review this single in the last issue – especially as you'll have heard them both loads over Christmas. But (for those living in Mars) one side's an epic ballad and the other's an old Motown classic. And they're both good.

ALL SAINTS All Hooked Up

The latest from these ladies is a bit of a grower, and it's quite possible this head-nodding R'n'B cher-yoon sounds OK after a few cocktails and lemonades down the Met Bar. It's just, well, the lyrics... "I know that you want a piece of my ass" Which piece exactly? Forget I asked...

LENE MARLIN Where I'm Headed

I now associate Lene

Marlin with *Sitting Down Here* playing on screens at big arena pop concerts while thousands of the audience (who could well be SH readers) gawp at good looking people. And if they changed it for this nearly identical record, which is the same as the last two, I don't think I'd notice. In fact, maybe they already have.

STEPS Too Busy Thinking About My Baby

The boys sing nearly as much as the girls, shock horror! This is a fair enough Motown cover for the B-side to *The Way You Make Me Feel*, but not a patch on previous Steps covers like *Tragedy* and *Last Thing On My Mind*. The songs they wrote for Buzz are better, so roll on the next single, I say.



KINNDA Don't Bring Sand To The Beach

The people who wrote this for tune the Swedish siren, Kinnda also penned Destiny's Child's marvellous *Bills Bills Bills* and TLC's *No Scrubs*. But here's the Kinnda surprise – this one's not that great.



Shane Westlife, she'd be called Cheyenne Westlife. (Er, Cheyenne Filan, actually – Office Westlife fans) Anyway, this isn't quite as good as the last one, which wasn't quite as good as the last one. Clear?



MAHIR I Kiss You

If the prospect doesn't appall you after looking at Mahir's picture on the sleeve, then just listen to the record.

ALICE DEEJAY Celebrate Our Love

I don't want to rock, DeeJay. This is exactly the same single as the last seven. Next!

MADISON AVENUE Everything You Need

Cheyenne Coates has to be one of the best names in pop. If she married

MEET... Patrick Fugit

Patrick Fugit, the 17-year-old star of *Almost Famous* is just that. You might not recognise him now, but his role as teenage rock writer William Miller in the film is sure to make him a big star...

The Facts

→ When director Cameron 'Jerry Maguire' Crowe was looking for someone to play the character of William (who's based on Crowe himself), he launched a nationwide talent search and found unknown Patrick, who comes from Utah. He hadn't had much acting experience before that, unless you count playing a worm in a stage show of *James And The Giant Peach*.

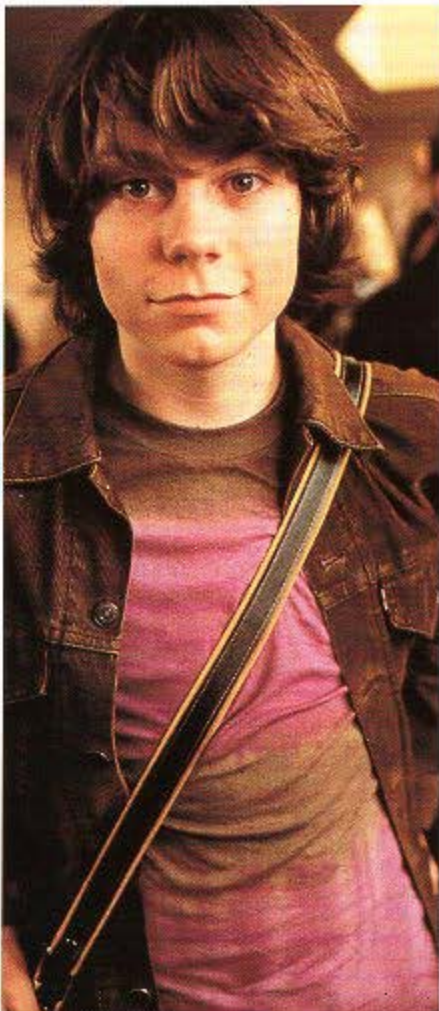
→ Patrick had to learn all about '70s rock music for the role. He confesses: "Before this movie, I had no musical sense. I had one *Chumbawumba* album." No sense at all, then!

→ Patrick grew three inches during filming, so he had to have his clothes refitted as time went on. Not that he always wore clothes – he got very nervous when he had to film a nude scene with three chicks

→ He was surrounded by a bevy of foxy actresses on the film, including *X-Men*'s Anna Paquin and Goldie Hawn's little girl Kate Hudson. "I wasn't looking for a girlfriend," says Patrick. "But there were plenty of cool girls to talk to."

→ Patrick's a little bit embarrassed about his meteoric rise to fame. "It's crazy!" he says. "Most people work up to this point by doing something like walking the dog in the background of a Harrison Ford movie. I got rushed to the front of the queue."

→ When he's not working, Patrick likes motorcycling, camping, playing the guitar and exploring canyons. Oo-er!



What's on Paul a's stereo?

My ultimate top ten CD compilation would be...

1 LENNY KRAVITZ

You're My Flavour



2 PRINCE

Adore

3 MARILYN MANSON

New Model

4 GUNS N ROSES

Shotgun Blues

5 TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY

Vibrator

6 KIM BASINGER

Scandalous Sex Swing

7 METALLICA

One

8 MARILYN MANSON

Fundamentally Loathsome

9 GEORGE MICHAEL

You Have Been Loved

10 PRINCE

Lady Cab Driver

pop INTO HMV

Pop into HMV and check out our Best Of 2000 campaign for some of the best albums of last year...

ALL SAINTS Saints And Sinners

Last October, the Saints released their second album and it didn't disappoint. *Saints And Sinners* is a fantastic blend of pop and R'n'B featuring two No1 singles from '00 – *Pure Shores* and *Black Coffee*, plus newie *All Hooked Up*.



MELANIE C Northern Star

2000 was a big year for Mel – two No1s (*Never Be The Same Again* & *I Turn To You*), endless sold-out concerts and this massive selling album. *Northern Star* also includes hits *If That Were Me*, *Goin' Down* and *Northern Star*, making it one great album.



KYLIE MINOGUE Light Years

Any award for Comeback Of The Year would go to the hot-panted Kyles. *Light Years* includes No1 single *Spinning Around* plus huge hits *On A Night Like This*, *Please Stay* and her duet with Robbie Williams – *Kids*. An essential buy for any lover of fine pop!

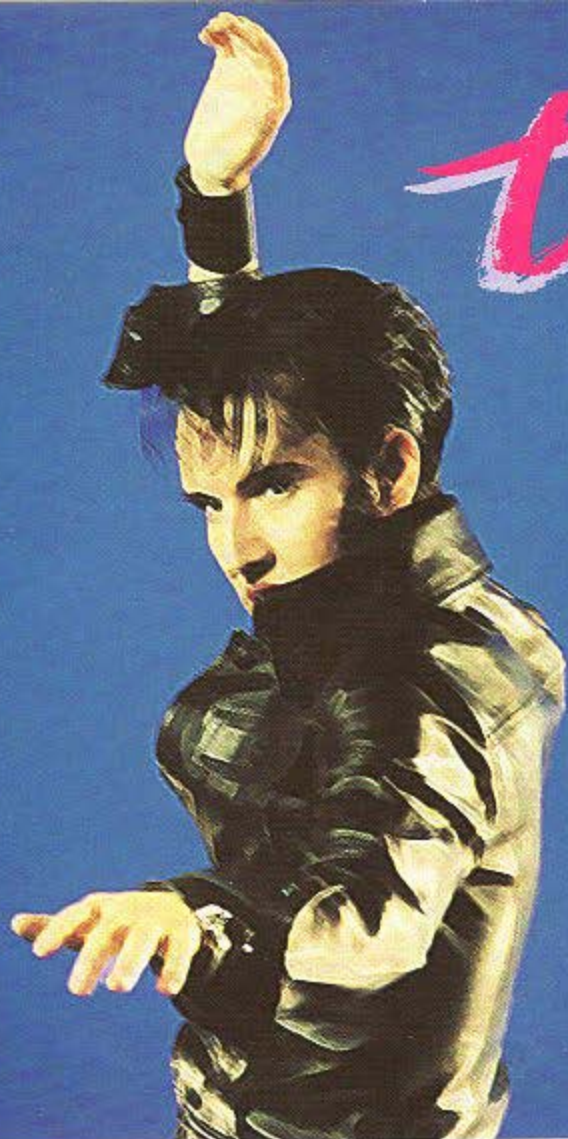


SAVAGE GARDEN Affirmation

Aussie duo Savage Garden are one of the world's most successful bands of the last few years and this second album is a great mix of pop songs and beautiful ballads like *Crash And Burn*, *I Knew I Loved You* and the title track.



topdogformusic



texas

inner smile

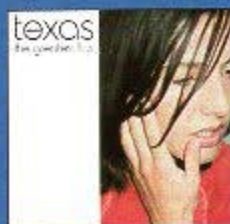
The brilliant new single

Available on 2 cd's
and cassette

CD1 includes the fantastic
'Sharleen as Elvis' video
plus exclusive new track

CD2 includes club mixes
and limited edition poster

Cassette also features
exclusive track



Taken from the No.1
album The Greatest Hits

www.texas.uk.com



FALLING

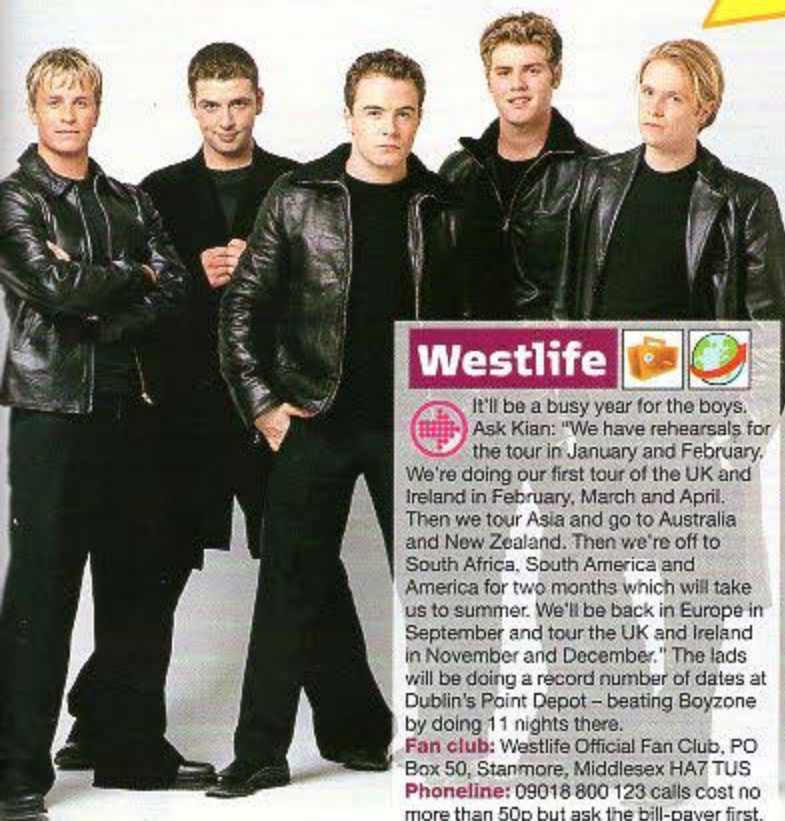
The debut single **FALLING** released 15 January 2001

CD1 includes **DARUDE REMIX** and bonus track **BOY VERSUS GIRL**
CD2 features **FALLING** video, bonus track **FLIPSIDE** and **PAUL 'SWEET P' WATSON REMIX**
MC bonus track is **BOY VERSUS GIRL**

Write to BOOM! at BOOM! PO Box 29475, London, NW1 0GZ www.whatisboom.com

all the facts on your favourite acts

bandwatch 2001 Special



Westlife

It'll be a busy year for the boys. Ask Kian: "We have rehearsals for the tour in January and February. We're doing our first tour of the UK and Ireland in February, March and April. Then we tour Asia and go to Australia and New Zealand. Then we're off to South Africa, South America and America for two months which will take us to summer. We'll be back in Europe in September and tour the UK and Ireland in November and December." The lads will be doing a record number of dates at Dublin's Point Depot - beating Boyzone by doing 11 nights there.
Fan club: Westlife Official Fan Club, PO Box 50, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2US
Phoneline: 09018 800 123 calls cost no more than 50p but ask the bill-payer first.
Website: www.westlife.co.uk

Steps

New single, *It's The Way You Make Me Feel*, is out this month! Claire and H will present another series of talent show *Steps To The Stars*, while Faye, Lisa and Lee do promotional work. In March they'll all be off to Europe and the Far East to do promotional work. And there'll be another single out around May. Steps should also be doing some more live shows by the end of the year. There might also be a new album from the boys and girls - see page 42 for more info...
Website: www.stepsofficial.com

S Club 7

The Club will be recording their long-awaited third album at the beginning of the year and they'll be doing their first UK tour in May and June. Then it's off to the US in the summer to film a new TV show. After that, the Clubbers should be back to promote the album and spend some time in the UK.
Information service: S Club 7, Freepost CV744, 3 Alveston Place, Leamington Spa CV32 4BR
Website: www.sclub.com

Five

Five will be recording new material in the New Year. Their third album is scheduled for release in April, so the boys will be busy doing international promotion in spring. The first single is due for release in April too. They have no plans to tour, but you never know.
Fan club: Five, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5RA
Website: www.bmg-backstage.co.uk

a1

The boys are back with a bang this year as they head out on their first arena tour. Their new single, *No More*, will be released in February so expect to see the lads all over your TV in the New Year. Then they'll be heading off to Asia and Japan to do some promotional work before going to America in the summer. The boys should be back in autumn for their arena tour here.
Website: www.a1-online.com

Backstreet Boys



BSB are off on a worldwide tour, starting in America this month and will be flying round the world for the rest of the year. They will play the UK, but dates are to be confirmed. Next single, *The Call*, is due out in February, with another in early summer.
Fan club: Fan Club Services, Backstreet Boys, PO Box 20, Manchester M60 3ED
Phoneline: 0900 916 6000
Website: www.backstreetboys.com

Robbie Williams

Robbie will be entertaining us in July this year with his UK stadium tour, which sold out in record time. Catch him in Cardiff on July 14, Milton Keynes on July 21, Manchester on July 28 and Glasgow on August 4. He'll be touring Europe during February and March. And there'll be singles from *Sing When You're Winning* throughout the year.
Fan club: Robbie Williams Fan Club, PO Box 479, Newcastle ST5 1BP
Website: www.robbiewilliams.com

Billie



Ms Piper will be on holiday at the beginning of the year recovering from a hectic 2000. In early spring she'll be busy promoting *Walk Of Life* in Europe. Keep your ears to the ground as there should be a new single out in spring too. Billie will spend the rest of the year writing and recording her third album, which is due out at the end of the year.
Fan club: The Official Billie Fanclub, PO Box 170, Swindon SN5 9NX
Website: c3.vmg.co.uk/billie

Boyzone

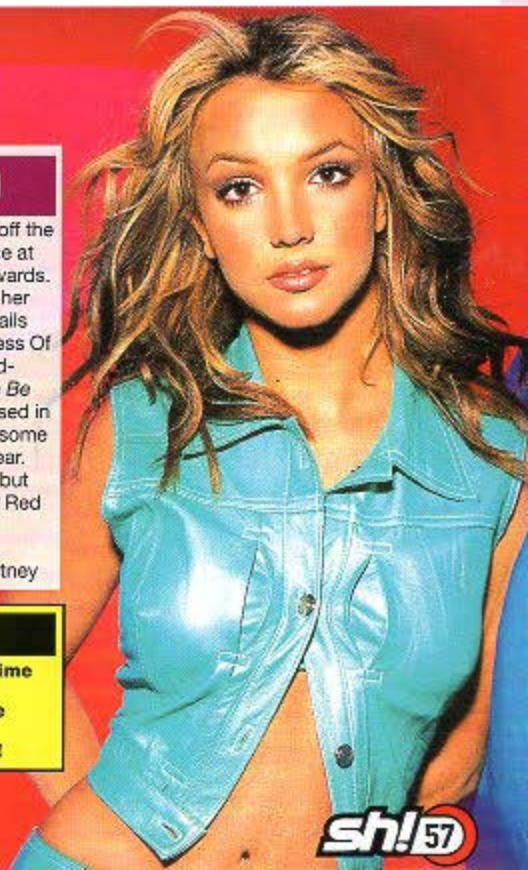
Ro' will start another tour on May 6. He and wife Yvonne are expecting a baby brother or sister for Jack in March. Mikey Graham's new single is due out in February with his solo album released in March. He'll be touring the UK in April and May before heading off to do some European promotion. All the 'Zone boys are comparing schedules so that they can tour together again.
Fan club: PO Box 102, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2PY
Phoneline: 0891 818103
Website: www.boyzone.co.uk

Britney

Britney will be starting off the year with a performance at the American Music Awards. Then Broccoli has pencilled in her first acting role in a movie. Details are a bit sketchy but the Princess Of Pop should be filming from mid-February 'til May. *Don't Let Me Be The Last To Know* will be released in March and she'll be recording some new material throughout the year.
Fan club: No UK fan club yet, but there's a US one: PO Box 7022 Red Bank, NJ 07701-7022, USA
Email: britney@peeps.com
Website: www.peeps.com/britney

WARNING!

All information is correct at time of going to press, but please check with the venues before turning up to see your fave popsters - dates can change!



pop-corn



YAY! Bounce (15)
Buddy Amaral (Ben Affleck) gives up his flight for a stranger, Greg, so that he can spend the night with a beautiful woman. But when the flight crashes, Buddy's filled with guilt and sets out to find Greg's widow (Gwyneth Paltrow) and explain. Of course, as it's a film, things take a peculiar twist... A complete girly flick, with Ben, a mushy storyline and weepy scenes - pass the popcorn!

CRAIG DAVID'S FANTASY TV

Here's what Craig David would sit and watch on his perfect night in!



7pm
EastEnders Omnibus
I watched the one where Ian Beale went bankrupt recently. It was wicked.

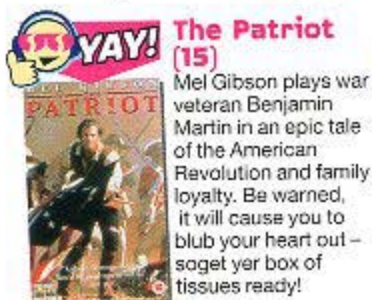
8.30pm
Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?
I love it, but why do people use their 50/50 when they have no idea what the answer is. How does that help them?

9.30pm
Home Alone
Especially around this time of year, it's so funny.

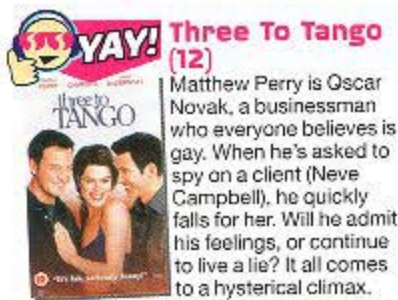
11pm
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
I can't get enough of it!



OK... Castaway (12)
Tom Hanks' latest flick is, in a word, long. When Chuck Noland's (Hanks) plane crashes in the South Pacific he's left stranded - presumed dead - on a desert island with nobody to talk to except a volleyball called Wilson! That, pretty much, is it. Doesn't bode well, does it? Some of the scenes are very emotional, although it does drag on a bit.



YAY! The Patriot (15)
Mel Gibson plays war veteran Benjamin Martin in an epic tale of the American Revolution and family loyalty. Be warned, it will cause you to blub your heart out - so get yer box of tissues ready!

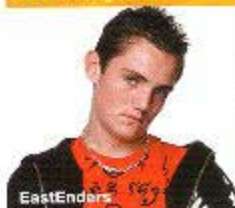


YAY! Three to Tango (12)
Matthew Perry is Oscar Novak, a businessman who everyone believes is gay. When he's asked to spy on a client (Neve Campbell), he quickly falls for her. Will he admit his feelings, or continue to live a lie? It all comes to a hysterical climax.



MY DIARY by Luke Morgan from Hollyoaks

PLOTLINE REVEALED



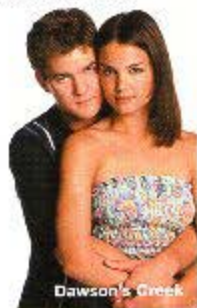
I'm heading for a run-in with **Ben**, his behaviour has become really strange. I hope things don't come to blows - I could do with talking to him about **Mandy**! Meanwhile, **Gina** and **Emily** get together to decide what's best for **Sol** - he's intent on getting them to help in his search for **Jesse**.

Over in **EASTENDERS**, **Mo**'s in trouble but will she let herself be helped? **Laura** and **Ian** re-open the chip shop and **Ashley** looks set to follow in his dad's footsteps.

Meanwhile in **CORONATION STREET**, **Tyrone** and **Maria** finally decide to take their relationship a step further. **Toyah**'s got a new flatmate and **Curly** and **Emma** return from their honeymoon.

DAWSON'S CREEK is back, and down in Capeside, things aren't going too well for **Jen**, and there's stormy weather ahead for **Pacey**.

Down on **BROOKSIDE** Close **Leanne** starts to suspect that **Susannah** was murdered and **Max** has to face the neighbours!



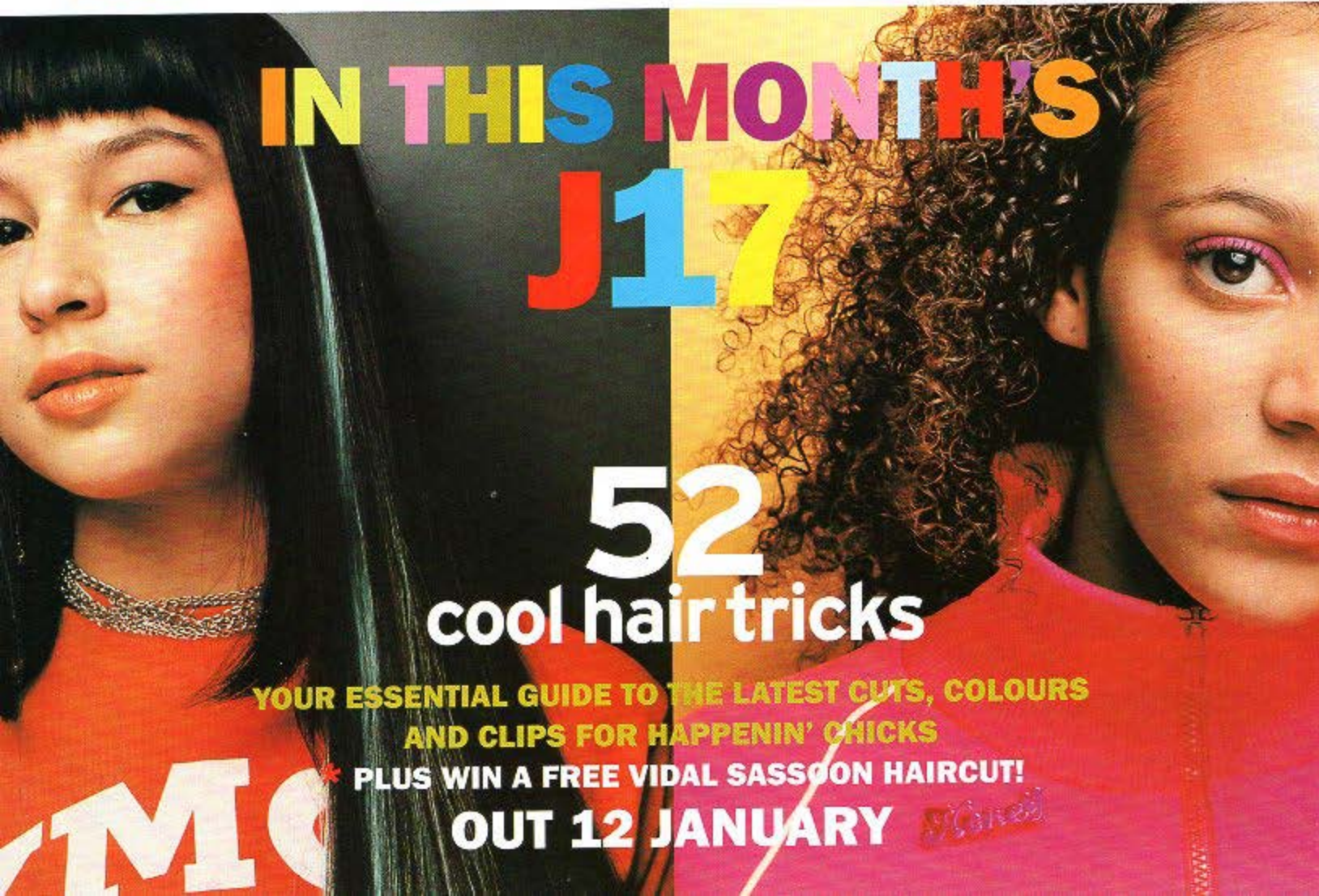
IN THIS MONTH'S J17

52 cool hair tricks

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE LATEST CUTS, COLOURS AND CLIPS FOR HAPPENIN' CHICKS

* PLUS WIN A FREE VIDAL SASSOON HAIRCUT!

OUT 12 JANUARY



Your fortnight starts here...

pop planner

**Wednesday
JANUARY 10**

Bored of your Crimbo toys? Why not invest in a Key Chain game? **Twister**, **Boggle** and **Monopoly** are all available on keyrings at £3.99 each

**Thursday
JANUARY 11**

Look out for **Steps** all over your TV, their new single is out now and they'll be going telly-tastic

**Friday
JANUARY 12**

It's **Mel C's** birthday today!



**Saturday
JANUARY 13**

Join **Dane** and **Tess** for **Smash Hits TV** tonight, Sky One at 6pm



**Sunday
JANUARY 14**

Dawson's Creek is back on T4 – have that lie-in you've been promising yourself!



**Monday
JANUARY 15**

After shooting their exotic new video the **a1** lads will be starting to promote their new single, **No More!**

**Tuesday
JANUARY 16**

Get logged on to www.itouch.com to download ringtones of the Top Ten chart singles to your mobile

**Wednesday
JANUARY 17**

Yummy Popcorn Chicken is now available at KFC, try a bucket at £1.99!

**Thursday
JANUARY 18**

Why not pop along and see **Traffic** at the cinemas now. It stars **Michael Douglas** and new wifey **Catherine Zeta Jones**

**Friday
JANUARY 19**

Tune into **Very Important Party** tonight on BBC1 and see which surprise stars will be popping in

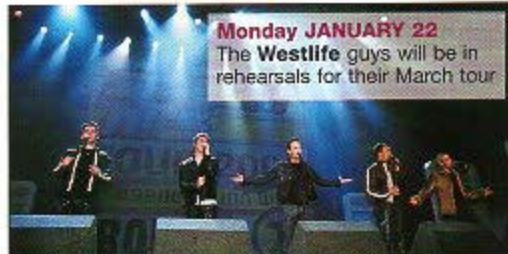
**Saturday
JANUARY 20**

Smash Hits fave **Lucie Cave** (That rhymes – Ed) has got a new series on **Trouble**, it's called **Room Ravers** and it kicks off at 9.15am



**Sunday
JANUARY 21**

The Offspring are playing at Wembley Arena tonight



Monday JANUARY 22

The **Westlife** guys will be in rehearsals for their March tour

**Tuesday
JANUARY 23**

Home And Away is back on TV! It's swapped from ITV to Channel 5, so make sure you don't miss it



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- 268 - Angel - Robbie Williams
- 280 - Cher - Believe
- 283 - Blue - Eiffel 65
- 284 - Boom boom boom - Venga Boys
- 299 - Don't call me baby - Madison Avenue
- 317 - Gentle in a bottle - Christina Aguilera
- 340 - Livin' on a prayer - Ricky Martin
- 342 - Mambo No. 5 - Lou Bega
- 346 - Millennium - Robbie Williams
- 382 - Sweet like chocolate - Shanks & Bigfoot
- 395 - Thong song - Sisqo
- 402 - What a girl want - Christina Aguilera
- 296 - Crazy - Britney Spears
- 312 - Flying without wings - Westlife
- 274 - Baby one more time - Britney Spears
- 355 - King of my castle - Wamdue Project
- 397 - Tragedy - Steps
- 259 - I only kiss when the sun don't shine - Vengaboys

CHOOSE A GRAPHIC...

1054 (659)	1817 (438)	2055 (410)
282 (845)	289 (1034)	3mad (596)
3smile (587)	488 (455)	529 (731)
65 (1355)	673 (1219)	750 (827)
78 (1222)	824 (1364)	84 (1367)
856 (1271)	951 (835)	chess (715)
51 (1210)	526 (730)	559 (595)
597 (742)	636 (662)	barcode (733)
550 (1266)	bear (795)	eyes2 (666)

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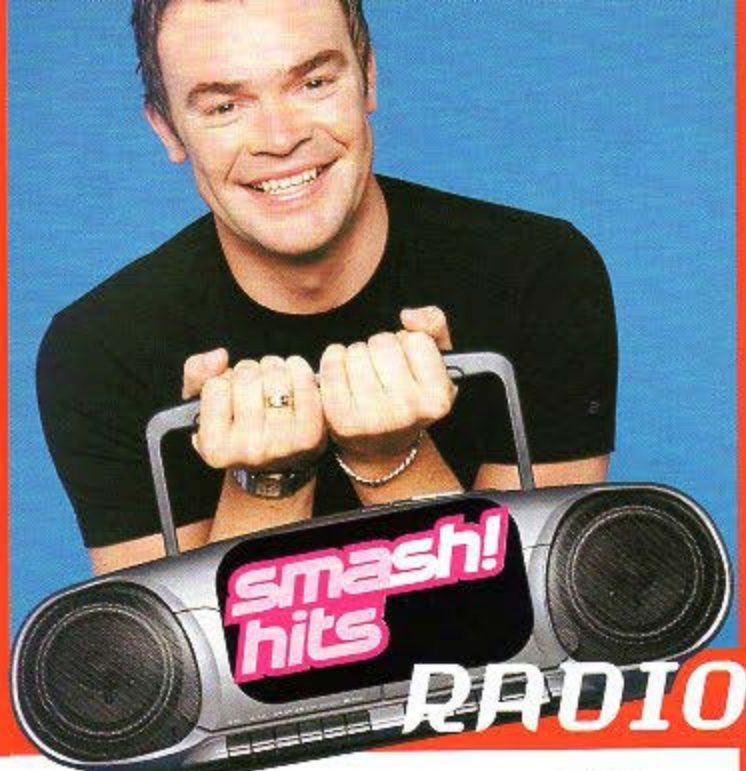
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This service is available to Nokia users on the Vodafone and Orange network. Calls cost £1.50 per minute, maximum cost is £3.00. I.L.N. SERVICES, PO BOX 107, KNUITSFORD, CHESHIRE, WA16 6AD.



DJ DARREN'S ON HOLIDAY, SO THERE'S A NEW VOICE ON SH RADIO - THE LOVELY INGRID



"Darren's been off sunning his lovely backside, so I've been filling in for him. It was brilliant because I got to go on the *Smash Hits* Tour and we did a show backstage at the *Poll Winners' Party*.

First into the studio were **Atomic Kitten**, who showed us a lot of bottoms - they have more tattoos than they let on, but at least they're nicely done.

Billie was on the show, and I was desperate to find out whether she was wearing anything when she did that *American Beauty* photoshoot for *SH*. She said she had her pants on and a little something covering her top, but I'm not so sure!

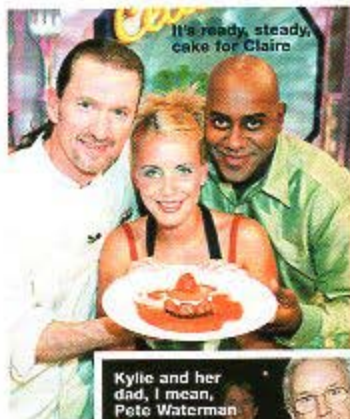
Lee Steps was turning his nose up in disgust when he heard about **Claire**'s attempt to cook her first Christmas dinner ever! He reckons she's not very good in the kitchen, but she gave it a go this time.

Talking of Steps, **Pete Waterman** was here talking to us. He's famous for working with **Steps** and people like **Kylie** back in the '80s and he told me the only act on the *Poll Winners'* bill he'd never worked with was **Texas**.

Richard Blackwood is being very cheeky at the moment - he's going round mentioning Porsche in every interview he does in the hope he'll get a free car!

I only managed to catch a little bit of the show, but I did see **Five** going on in their white outfits. It's amazing when you go out into the crowd and feel all the energy.

Well, Darren will be back from holiday by the time you read this, so watch out for his white bits - I've heard he wears a G-string!"



Kylie and her dad, I mean, Pete Waterman

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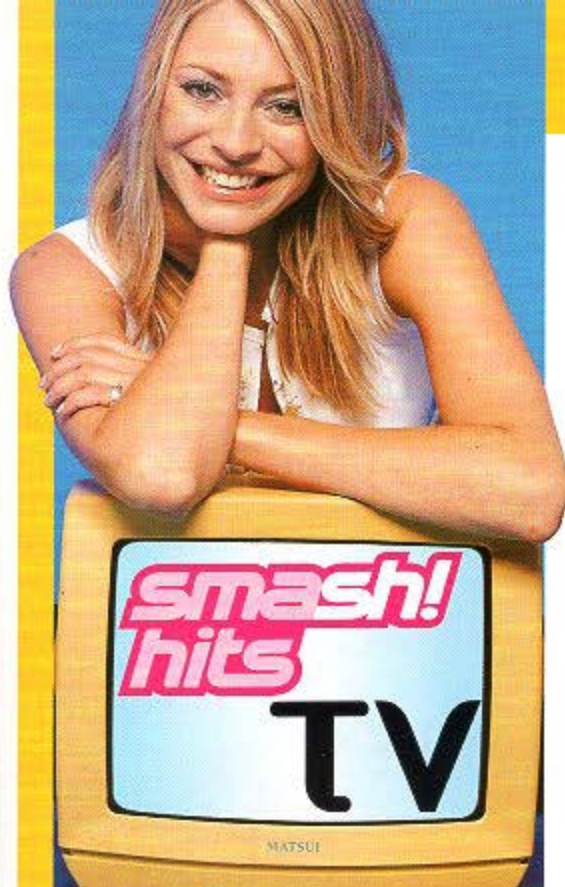
Or... to hear it live over the internet, log on to www.clickmanchester.com click on the Key103 button and select 'Station Streaming'



Westlife... sorry, it's Five, my mistake



How many Porsches, Richard?



BIG BROTHERS AND BIRTHDAYS, IT WAS ALL HAPPENING ON SMASH HITS TV

Another frantic fortnight at SHTV with pop people aplenty and a birthday party too! The **Oxide & Neutrino** crew are content to drink tea and eat crisps in the canteen, but **Cheyne Madison Avenue** invites us up to her dressing room for a natter. She's been a bit busy what with the *Smash Hits Tour*: "It's been fun - everyone's really nice. I'm looking forward to going back to Oz for Christmas now."

Sharleen Texas welcomes us into her boudoir for a cuppa and poses for a few snaps. **Mark a1** has been feeling a bit poorly recently: "The tour was brilliant but my voice hasn't recovered. I completely lost my voice for the last night!"

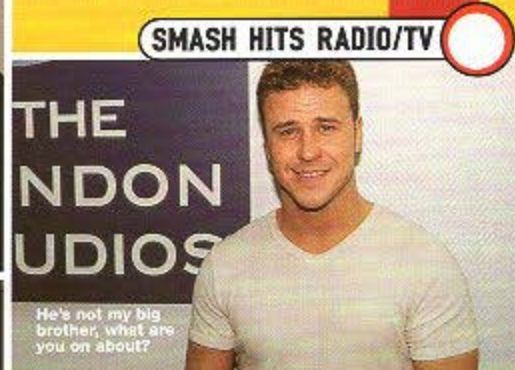
Tess is pleased to see her old mates **Keith** and **Shane**. "We might do another single, but it'll be more serious - hip-hop and rock'n'roll!"

Those rude **B.O.N.** boys have just flown in from New York! Guy admits they're knackered: "We're a bit jet lagged. And my feet hurt from walking around New York for ten hours!"

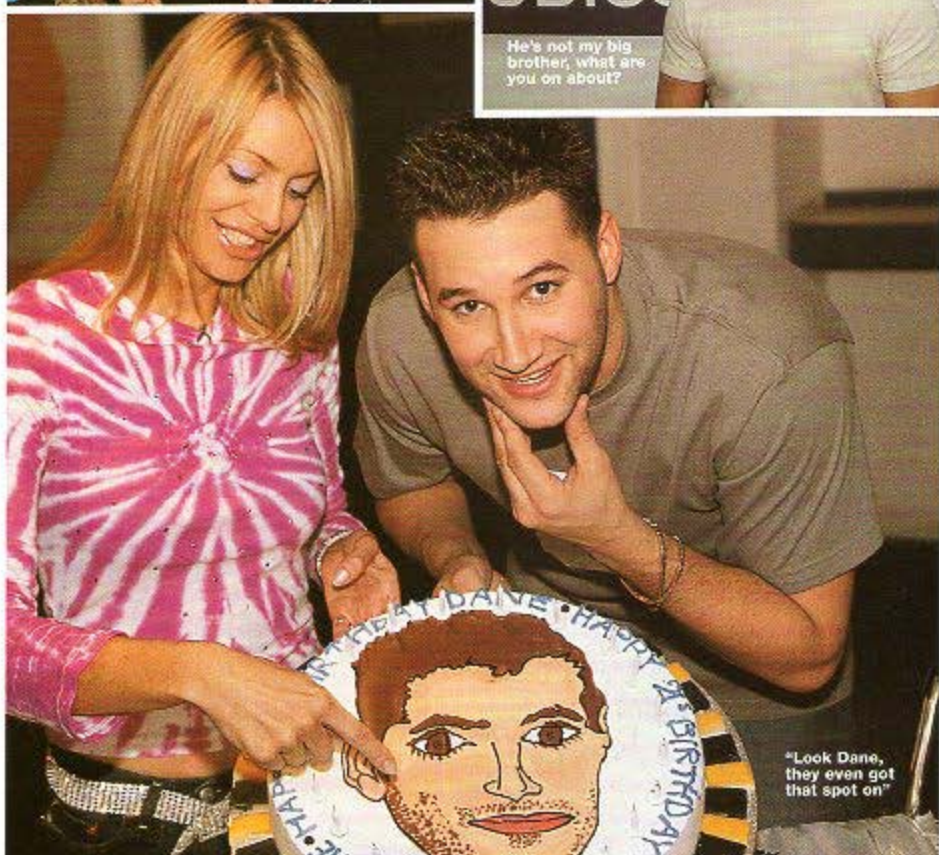
There are a couple of surprises too - **Craig Big Brother** pops in to say hello and **Dane**'s blows out the candles on his 21st birthday cake. It's got a great pic of the man himself - with stubble too! A couple of bottles of fizzy pop and it was all over 'til the next time...



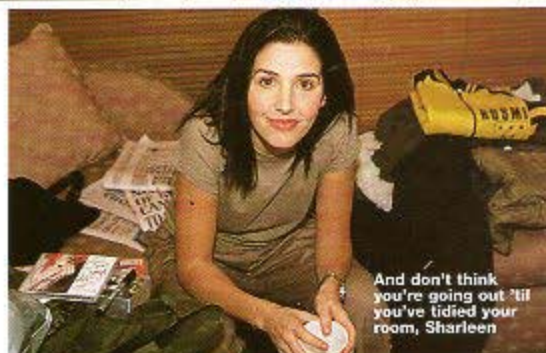
Oxide & Neutrino get ready for their tea and crisps



He's not my big brother, what are you on about?



"Look Dane, they even got that spot on"



And don't think you're going out 'til you've tidied your room, Sharleen



Keith's paid a trip to the Shane barber shop



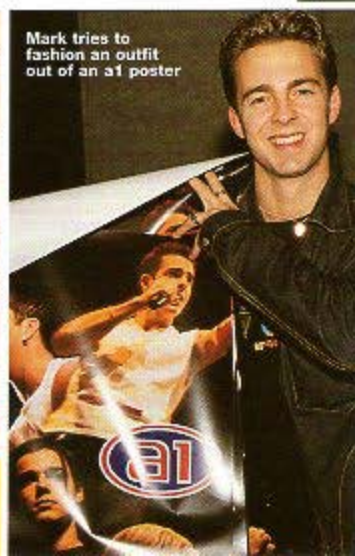
Martine and her minders, oops sorry, Keith and Shane



Never mind losing the heat from your head, put some clothes on woman



B.O.N. - don't ask me what it stands for



Mark tries to fashion an outfit out of an a1 poster

SKY
one

CATCH SMASH HITS
TV ON SKY ONE ON
SATURDAYS AT 6PM
AND SUNDAYS AT 5PM

Wanna be in the SHTV audience?

Either email 'em at lwt.tickets@granadamedia.com (with 'Smash Hits' in the subject line); fax 'em on 0207 261 8027, or send an SAE to **Smash Hits TV**, c/o Studio Audience Research, LWT, London TV Centre, London SE1 9LT. In all cases, include your name, age and a daytime phone number!

sh!

In the next issue...

FREE

**ber-yoo-tiful
keyring
notebooks!**



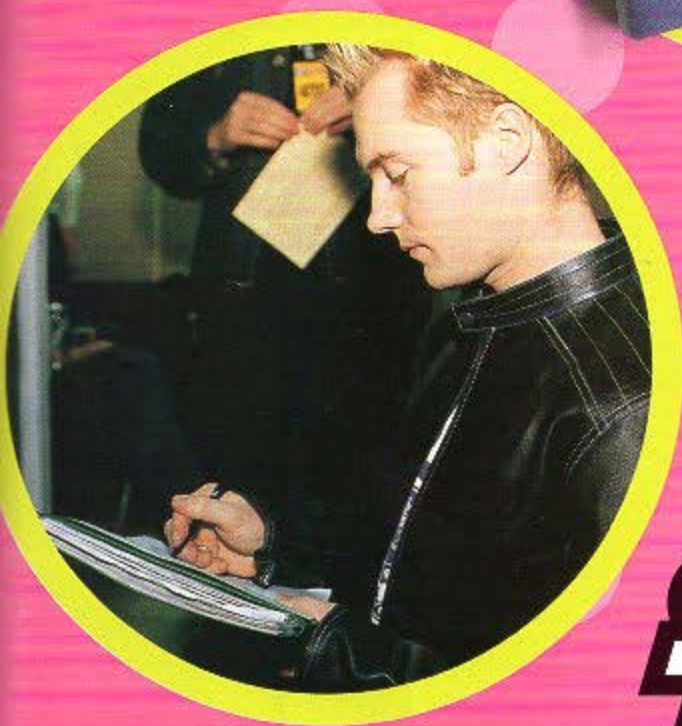
**They come in two
different colours!**

They're notebooks!

They're keyrings!

They're free!

That's it!



PLUS!

**What's Ronan Keating
up to???**

(You'll be v. surprised!)

All in the next issue of

smash!
hits

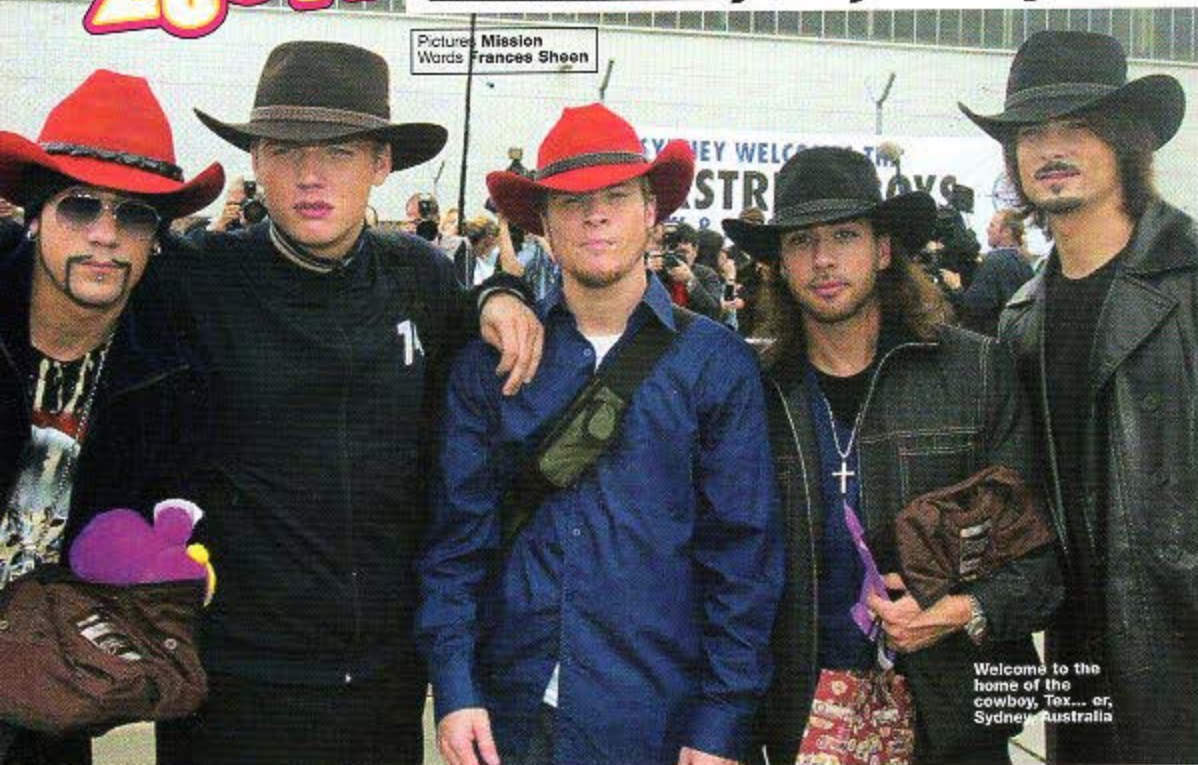
**Non-stop pop
Out January 24**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE BACKSTREET BOYS

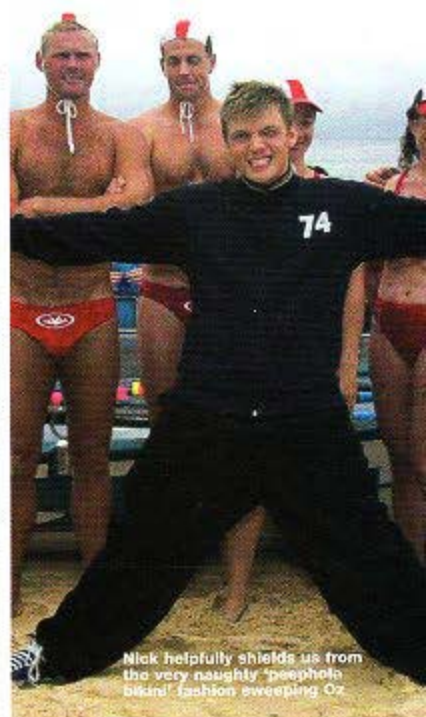
2001!

Fancy New Year in Oz for National Backstreet Boys Day? Thought so...

Pictures Mission Words Frances Sheen



Welcome to the home of the cowboy, Tex... er, Sydney, Australia



Nick helpfully shields us from the very naughty 'peephole bikini' fashion sweeping Oz



To kick off their 2001 with a bang, the Backstreet Boys went on a whirlwind tour of the globe, making five stops in five different continents in just three days. When they touched down in Australia, *Smash Hits* was there to show 'em round...

8.30am

The boys are due to land but torrential rain forces the plane to circle Sydney for 45 minutes. The delay works out well for the fans waiting at the airport - just before the plane lands, a record company bloke realises they're all waiting at the wrong terminal! Luckily, the friendly guy jumps in his motor and ferries about 15 car loads of dripping wet BSB fans over to the right terminal.

10am

The boys are enjoying breakfast with some Aussie celebs when suddenly the Teenage Witch herself, Melissa Joan Hart, appears sporting a new bright-red hairdo. No-one knows what she's doing here and even BSB are a bit surprised. It turns out she's filming a new movie in Sydney.

The boys hang out in the surf and AJ is presented with a pair of skimpy Speedos which he slips on over his trousers. He whips them off again quickly when he realises how ridiculous he looks, but that doesn't stop Kevin laughing himself stupid! Nick's caught his little bro's obsession with sharks and keeps asking if there are any off Bondi Beach. But before we can answer, the boys are presented with custom-made

surfboards. AJ admits he'd kill himself if he even *tried* to surf, but Nick is itching to give his a spin. Kevin, Howie and Brian avoid all attempts to get them to give it a go: "Over my dead body," says Kev.

The boys zip up the road to Rose Bay High School for a press conference. The girls at the school were only told at 9am that morning and several are seen crying in corridors as the boys pass by!

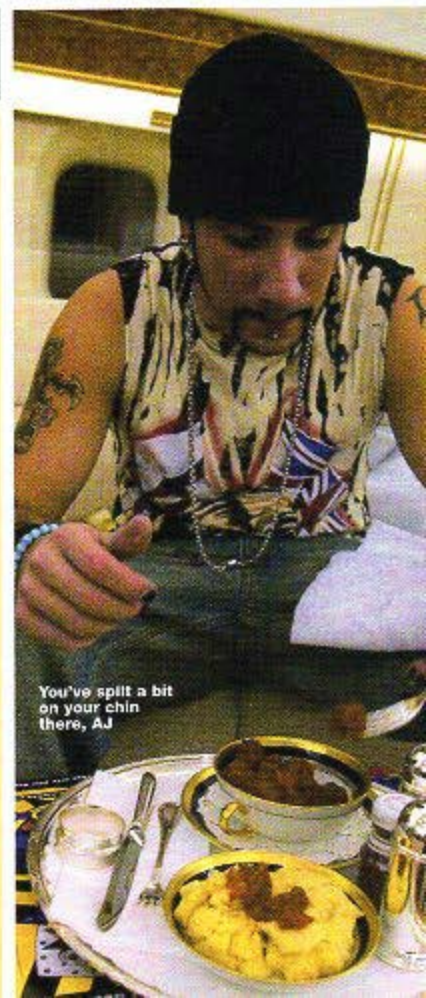
At the press conference, one fan persuades the boys to sing *Happy Birthday* to her and AJ admits there's only one shower on the plane so they're all getting a bit smelly! Howie looks a bit worried when AJ attempts to sniff his armpits...

At one point some serious journo asks Kev what he thought of the American election fiasco. Kev jokes that he's actually quite keen to run for President himself in the future, and Brian and Nick call him President Kev for the rest of the day.

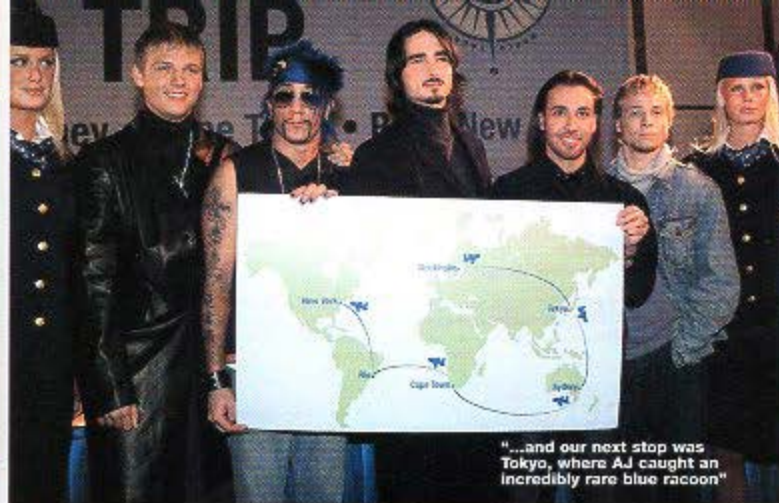
12.30pm

The boat cruise around Sydney Opera House is meant to be the

"I come to Australia and wear Speedos and a bra. people are gonna start wondering about me!" - AJ



You've spilt a bit on your chin there, AJ



"...and our next stop was Tokyo, where AJ caught an incredibly rare blue racoon"

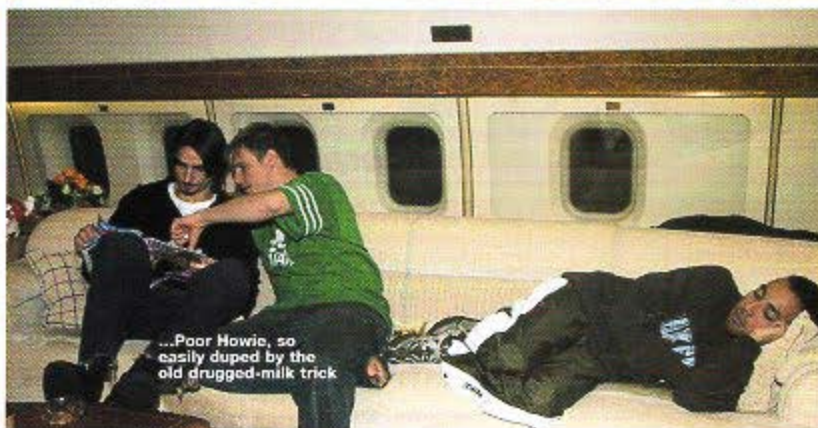


"Where are Alf and Flathead, you flamin' mongrels?" The boys gatecrash the opening credits to *Home And Away*

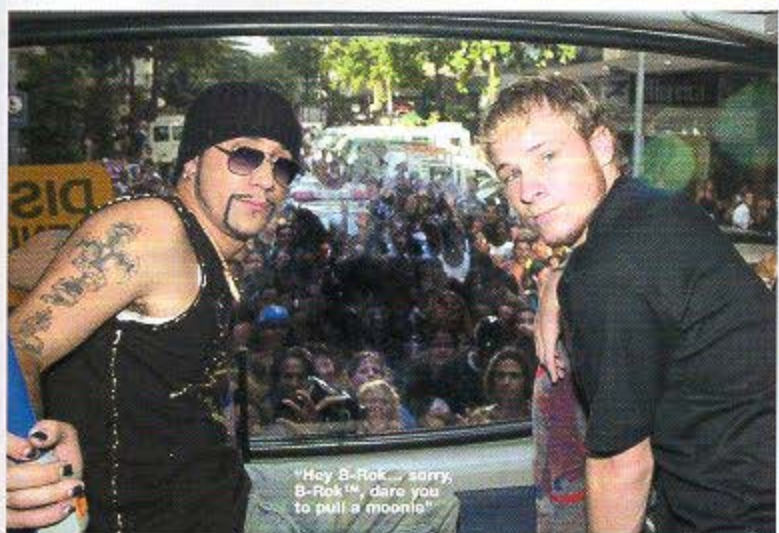


Howie: "I'm scared of flying, I ain't going on no plane!"
Brian: "Of course not, Howie, now just drink the glass of milk..."

"Surf? Over my dead body!" – Kevin



...Poor Howie, so easily duped by the old drugged-milk trick



"Hey B-Rok... sorry, B-Rok™, dare you to pull a moonie!"



When you're as big as BSB you can afford hotels with views like that. Maybe not a razor, though

boys' chill-out time when no media people can hassle them, but of course, as soon as they spy *Smash Hits* they invite us aboard and soon we're cruising around the harbour tucking into fresh prawns, oysters and salad. Kevin wolfs it down because he hasn't eaten for about "36 hours straight", and the boys enjoy a sneaky beer!

At one point the guys try to throw poor Howie in the harbour, until Kevin stops them with a stern, dad-like look. Nick's busy interrogating the boat captain about sharks (again!) and AJ starts talking to his security guard about women he fancies. Obviously girlfriend Amanda – or "Poopy" as he affectionately calls her – is at the top of the list, but he's also got a soft spot for the waitress on the boat!

Kevin and Brian admit they're missing their wives, but they're still enjoying their boys' trip. "It's like having a stag night after the wedding," laughs Kev.

2pm

Off the boat and into a nearby hotel where, spookily, Melissa

Joan Hart pops up again. Her and a few pals join the boys for a drink and then the band have a quick shower and a rest before heading over to Sydney's Pitt Street Mall where a gazillion screaming girls, desperate to hear their idols sing, are crowded into an area the size of a (smallish) toilet.

5pm

The boys arrive on stage and are immediately met by a bra thrown from the audience! Bizarrely, Kevin suggests AJ wears it, but he needs Nick's help to get it on! After about five minutes AJ decides it's too tight, takes it off and ties it round Nick's head. He then spends the next 20 minutes talking to the crowd with a bra on his head. Strange boys.

After an a capella version of *Shape Of My Heart* the boys race back to the hotel where there's special cocktail party being organised. Surprise, surprise, Melissa Joan Hart is there again and it seems pretty obvious she's taken a shine to Nick, though he doesn't seem too interested. Instead

she spends most of the evening talking to Howie about his nightclub and discussing the best places to hang out in LA. Howie admits he used to be a big fan of *Clarissa Explains It All* and Melissa is touched. "I thought no-one watched that show!" she admits.

Suddenly it's all over. The boys are starting to look knackered and Kevin admits he's beginning to feel the strain, but there's no time to relax as the boys are shuttled back to the waiting plane. A few hours in the air and they've got to do it all over again – in Cape Town, South Africa.

BSB IN OZ – The burning questions!

"Do you really say 'chuck another shrimp on the barbie'?" – Kevin

"What's the size of your average shark?" – Nick

"Can I see a koala?" – Brian

THE ITINERARY...

Saturday: Arrive in Tokyo from Stockholm: 8.55am

Sunday: Arrive in Sydney from Tokyo: 8.30am

Monday morning: Arrive in Cape Town from Sydney: 6.30am

Monday afternoon: Arrive in Rio from Cape Town: 4pm

Tuesday: Arrive in New York from Rio: 10am

The plane: 28-seat 737, owned by the Sultan of Brunei

Time spent in air: 55 hours

Time spent on land: 45 hours



Nick's daring graffiti skillz were legendary

ACE STUFF THE SMASH HITS OFFICE CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT!



1 (7) SPARKLY STUFF

It's not just accessories these days – Steps have gone the whole hog and decked themselves from head to toe in glittery garb. But you know that already – you've seen our cover

2 (NEW) NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

We resolve to bring you all the biggest stars, the latest news and the best gossip every other Wednesday for the next 12 months... and, well, forever, actually

3 (NEW) BOTTOMS AS TOPS

Like a couple of doofuses, Tess Daly and Faye Steps got dressed in the dark and ended up wearing their jeans as shirts. All of a sudden, it's the latest 'thing'. Tsk, the crazy world of fashion, eh?

4 (NEW) SH PHOTO ALBUM

Another fantastic free gift from us. We've never actually heard Photo, but they must be all right if they've made a record (Don't even stay to clear your desk – Ed)

5 (NEW) TIGERS

The hottest purchase at Pet Smart this year. Sisqó's just got one – it's murder round his at teatime, what with that dragon wanting feeding as well

6 (NEW) ALMOST FAMOUS

Brilliant new film about a young boy who has the time of his life working for a music magazine and hanging out with pop stars. Cool! Can we do a job like that? Oh, we do already!

7 (RE) TATTOOS

Victoria Beckham's got three stars stencilled on her bum and Kerry Kitten's had a cartoon bear called Winnie put on hers. That's right, she's got a Pooh in her pants!

8 (NEW) SHOPPING

January + sales + the wad of vouchers you got for Christmas = Saturdays spent spending. Now that's the sort of maths we like...

9 (13) SMASH HITS TV

...and when you've finished shopping, get the bus home in time for more pop fun from Tess and Dane, Sky One, 6pm

10 (NEW) CRAIG BIG BROTHER

The cuddly Scouser rang the office at 10.30pm to speak to our Serena. Funnily enough, she'd gone home – but she hopes he was calling to ask her out

11 (RE) DAWSON'S CREEK

Back for season four. Will Dawson and Pacey be friends again? Is bad news on its way for Jen? Will Joey's dad finally admit he wanted a kangaroo not a daughter? (OUT! NOW! – Ed)

12 (NEW) HIP-HOP

Dr Dre's back with a corking new choon and Ol' ... er, Dusty Barstool and his Wu-Tang Clan made a bid for the Christmas No1 with *Gravel Pit*. We like Wu-Tang's Raekwon The Chef best – 'dope' beats and culinary skills. And that's got to be good news for the rap fan with an appetite

13 (NEW) CD-CARDZ

Card-shaped CD-Roms containing photos, puzzles and video interviews with your fave popsters. We got sent some Westlife ones. Woo-hoo! Technology rules!

14 (NEW) SWEATBANDS

It's hot work doing the *Walk Of Life*, so mop your brow with Billie's super-absorbent wrist accessories. Alternatively, if you've got a neck like a goose, wear one as a choker

15 (NEW) BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE

Look what we spent our Christmas money on – the singing, dancing Toy Of The Year 2000 from Mattel. Unfortunately, Art Boy Owen got very confused and bought himself a *Bare In The Big Blue House* video by mistake – and you really don't want to know what that's about

16 (NEW) LEGO

We got loads of the stuff for Christmas. The Knights' Kingdom is our favourite range, but our Daniel's sulking 'cos our Matt knocked down his fort with his catapult

17 (8) H

Keeps his place in the chart thanks to the homemade Christmas card we got from Steps

18 (NEW) BUYING HOUSES

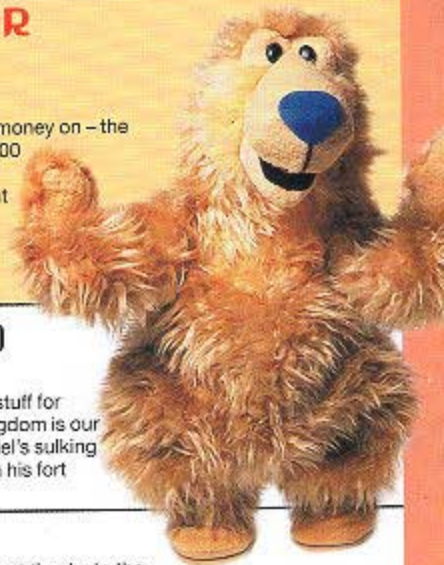
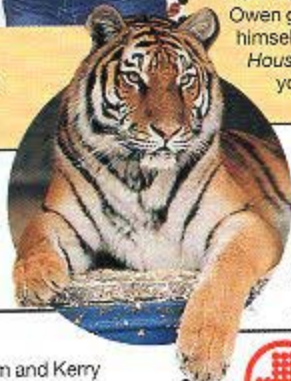
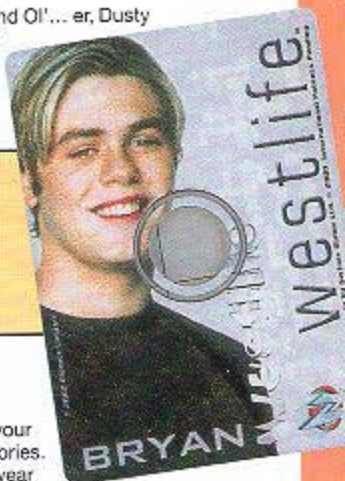
All the a1 boys – except Mark, who's staying at home with his mum – have bought themselves new pads. Let's hope they're not next door to Daphne and Celeste!

19 (NEW) LEFT-OVER TURKEY

Fed up with it in your sandwiches? Why not try our favourite – a lukewarm turkey milkshake? That'll get you moving in the morning

20 (1) THE BIG COUNTDOWN

Just 11 months 'til Poll Winners' 2001. Doesn't time fly?



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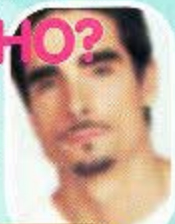
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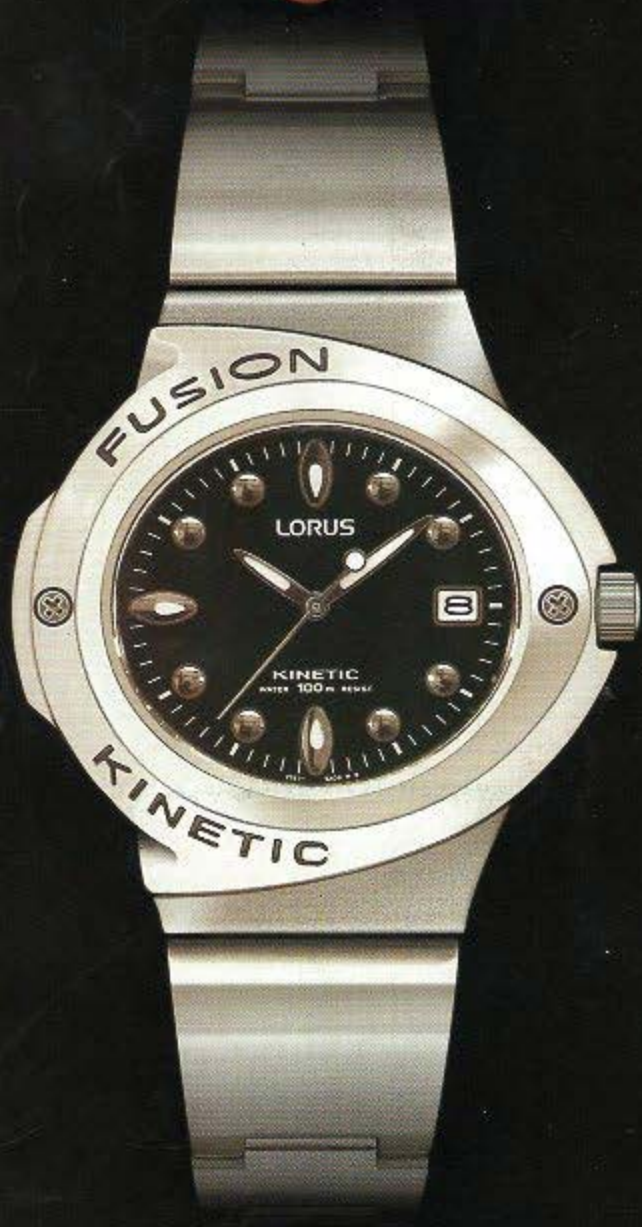
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